Hafa Adai!

PSS student registration goes paperless. PAGE 2

'PSS awarded $62.5M for Yutu recovery; paid only $1M to date' PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

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25-cent gas price rollback billed as NMI's biggest yet

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI community was greeted with an unexpected—and pleasant—surprise yesterday after Mobil Oil Marianas lowered its fuel prices by 25 cents, the largest price rollback of the year so far and the second time in just days.

Around 4pm yesterday afternoon, Mobil Oil Marianas rolled back its fuel prices, just one day since their last. As of 6pm press time, Shell Marianas has yet to reduce its prices but is expected to follow suit today.

Mobil reduced its prices

See GAS on Page 4

A Mobil Oil Marianas price board shows the new gas prices.
KIMBERLY ESMORES

CUC paying Aggreko over $300K monthly for 3 years now

File photo shows U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Carter inspecting facilities of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico in January 2020.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is paying over $300,000 a month to portable generator supplier Aggreko, which has been supplying Saipan with temporary power for almost three years now, according to new CUC deputy executive director Chretien Voerg.

Speaking at a meeting Wednes-

See CUC on Page 4

Herbert Soll passes away at 85

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Soll

The CNMI's first Commonwealth Court Trial associate judge, Herbert D. Soll, passed away yesterday morning at 85 and the eulogies that immediately poured in were one in saying his memory will live on in the hearts of the CNMI community for the vital role he played in shaping the CNMI's justice system today.

It was learned that Soll passed away yesterday morn-

See HERBERT on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

REVISED BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR FY 2023

Net budgetary resources increase from $101.35M to $104.35M

» Changes include allocation of $475K for athletes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has submitted a revised proposed budget for the CNMI government and related agencies for fiscal year 2023 that increased the net budgetary resources from $101.35 million to $104.35 million.

See BUDGET on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
The man charged in the Highland Park shooting said that he thought of a second attack.
PAGE 14

ASIA
Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. plays a balancing act in his meeting with China's top diplomat.
PAGE 15

WORLD
Russia redoubled its push for Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, with both sides reporting casualties.
PAGE 16

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Local

PSS registration goes paperless

The CNMI Public School System student registration for the school year 2022-2023 is now open and it will be 100% online, which means paper registrations will no longer be accepted.

The website for registration is www.cnmipssoare.org.

One online registration form will be used for one household. Parents must include all the names of their children in one form even if the children in the same household will be in different schools in the CNMI PSS.

Along with the registration form, several documents must be submitted with the registration and/or re-enrollment form. Electronic copies may be in PDF or JPEG formats. That means you can take a picture of the document and submit that online. Required documents to be uploaded are a valid health certificate, birth certificate, a screenshot of a map to their residence and the latitude-longitude coordinates, a valid parent or guardian photo ID, a valid photo ID for all listed authorized contacts, medical insurance card for the school year, and a CNMI PSS Emergency Medical Treatment Authorization form.

Parents or guardians filling up the online form need a valid email address.

The following documents are only required for applicable students: a transcript or report card from previous schools for transfer students only, bus request form, court order of full custody, notarized statement or any other proof that child is under the care of another person who is 18 or older, Out-of-Zone Waiver Form, the latest 1040 Tax Return Form, a Consent to Release Education Records Form, and a Signed Directory Information Opt-Out Form.

Additionally, students being registered for kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2022. Public Law 20-48 requires every person between the ages of 5 and 17 to attend school. This means that kindergarten is now mandated in the CNMI.

For families with limited or no internet access, they may contact their child(s) school to set up an appointment for registration assistance. All appointments will be scheduled due to limited staffing. Walk-ins are not accepted.

At the school, they may

See PSS on Page 4

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‘PSS awarded $62.5M for Yutu recovery; paid only $1M to date’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal government has awarded the Public School System $62.5 million for recovery from the 2018 Super Typhoon Yutu, but the Public Assistance Office has so far paid only just a little over $1 million to PSS, according to PAO’s Patrick Guerrero.

Speaking at an “informal meeting” Wednesday with members of the House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee in the House chamber, Guerrero said he can’t say “expended” as they depend on PSS submitting those reimbursement requests to them.

» Guerrero says they are not sitting idle as they continue to work with PSS

“But, again, there’s a cost-share so the actual obligated amount is $55 million and we’ve only drawn down a little over a million dollars,” he said.

Guerrero

Guerrero, who is also the Governor’s Authorized Representative for COVID-19, said he is aware that PSS has completed significant work for some of their smaller projects, or some of the smaller school repairs. He said they do meet with PSS regularly, much more than the mandatory quarterly meetings.

Guerrero said they do anticipate request from PSS for a few million dollars coming in within the next 30 to 60 days for the work that has already been completed.

He said PAO and PSS are now focusing more on what needs to be completed. He said the big questions usually arise from some of the larger projects like the Hopwood Junior High School and William S. Reyes Elementary School repairs. Guerrero said those projects alone account for half of the funding that’s still left to be drawn.

He said there’s a process that’s ongoing and that they’re working with PSS—whether it’s Architecture and Design (A&E) or a pending Federal Emergency Management Agency review—to comply with regulations.

“We’re not sitting idle. We’re continuing to work with them, trying to get these projects off the ground and completed,” Guerrero said.

Ways and Means Committee vice chair Rep. Corina L. Magofna, (Ind-Saipan), who presided over the meeting, sought clarifications on the expenses connected with the drawdown of a little over a million. Guerrero said that PSS had debris removal projects and emergency protective measures implemented during the response period, which probably happened during the first six months after Yutu.

He said those projects accounted for about $750,000 and the remaining balance is a few schools that have completed some repair work.

Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) said that when she communicated with PSS, they shared with her that they’re supposed to have A&E firm assigned coming from PAO.

Guerrero agreed with Staffler, saying that most schools that require A&E services have been assigned one and work is being done by those firms to assist them.

Staffler believes that might be where some of the disconnect in communication is happening because it is her understanding that the A&E firms haven’t gotten their notice to proceed.

Guerrero said they have four A&E firms that they are working with and they assigned those to certain sub-recipients like PSS, if they request for such services. He said he can provide a list of every school with assigned A&E firms after the meeting.

Staffler said she is concerned, considering that only $1 million has been drawn down from the $65 million and the window for that funding is closing.

“It sounds like PSS is waiting on approvals from another place,” said Staffler, adding that PSS should get that $65 million so that they can provide all students with safe, conducive places for learning that are not broken down.

“The sooner we move, the sooner our kids can go back to school in good locations,” she said as she urged Guerrero and PSS to expedite the process.

Torres allocates $475K for athletes in revised budget

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on July 1, 2022, submitted a revised proposed budget for the Commonwealth government and related agencies for fiscal year 2023, which, as mandated by the Constitution, is balanced with the total amount of proposed expenditures not exceeding the total estimated resources available for appropriation.

Torres

This revision to the April budget submission, afforded through the Planning and Budgeting Act, reflects changes to Volume I (General Fund), within which Torres allocated $75,000 to the Northern Marianas Sports Association to support athletes invited for representation at off-island sporting events.

Additionally, within revisions to Volume IV (ARPA Fund), Torres allocates $400,000 to the Northern Marianas Sports Association to support athletes who will participate in the 2023 Pacific Games and the Micronesian Games.

“We are all proud of our athletes and all their successes during this year’s Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, and I would like to continue to support all our athletes who continue to work hard to represent the CNMI. Next year is both the Pacific Games and the Micronesian Games, and our athletes are also invited to other off-island sporting events throughout the year. These funds being allocated to the [NMSA], who have played a big part in our historical hosting of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, will go toward supporting our athletes, who wave our flag and represent the entire CNMI when they compete around the Pacific,” said Torres. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 8am*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor’s Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/17/2022)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson’s Report
  A. Senate Confirmation & Swearing-In of Ted Parker and Dr. Tiffany Willis as Member Boards
  B. Nomination of Dr. Angela Sabino to the Board Representing Dental
  C. DEA Memorandum of Agreement for P. B.
VII. Director’s Report
  A. Financial Report for 2nd Quarter
  B. Practice Quarterly Report for Dr. NK
  C. Status Update on the Physician Regulation
  D. Request to Purchase New Vehicle for Office Use
  E. HCPLB New Website http://www.cnmilicensing.com
  Office email Address: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
VIII. Investigator’s Report
IX. Communications from the Governor’s Office & Legislature
  A. Governor’s Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board’s Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

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23rd Taste of the Marianas food festival a hit

The 23rd Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden held on Saipan last month served up a full plate of delicacies, drinks, live entertainment, and more for visitors and residents, marking another step toward tourism recovery in the destination.

The annual signature event of Marianas Visitors Authority returned for its second year since the pandemic with 29 food and four drink vendors—more than ever—and catering to a growing number of South Korean visitors and representatives of over 20 Pacific island nations and territories who gathered on Saipan this month for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

"The Taste of the Marianas was another incredible success this year thanks to the continued strong support the MVA received from our supporters and sponsors and the tremendous enthusiasm of festivalgoers," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "The outcome of the Taste of the Marianas was a true testament that we are on the right track to recovery. The amount of people that supported the event indicated that we are also a safe destination, especially with the exciting reopening of Japan market in September with direct flights by United Airlines." ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CUC

From Page 1

day with members of the House of Representatives' Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, Voerg said they still have Aggreko helping them with their long-term plan of replacing power engine units with new permanent units.

"We do have a new engine on order and it's in process of being delivered. As of right now, the scheduled delivery [for that unit] is this summer," Voerg said.

PUTC chair Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) said he called the meeting because of concerns about the high utility bills that CUC consumers have been paying. Lizama said the meeting was intended to ferret out solutions to help CUC's consumers.

"All of us have been getting a lot of calls in regards to fuel costs and power. I myself came up with a $900 utility bill," Lizama said.

The lawmaker concedes it is an old issue and he and the committee want to hear from CUC about possible solutions to resolve this issue.

Voerg, who has been with CUC for only two months, appeared with a team before the PUTC Committee since CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho is off-island.

With respect to the new power engine that's coming, Voerg said there will be installation period in order to get that unit up and running. He said the Aggreko contract will remain in place until such time that they have the ability to produce the power that Aggreko is supplying right now.

CUC power plant manager Richard Cano said they have five power engine units at Power Plant 1 and three units at Power Plant 2, which are all located in Lower Base.

At Power Plants 2 and 4, they have three running units but are under maintenance right now, Cano said

He said the power engines are obsolete and require a lot of maintenance, so they need additional units.

Right now, Saipan's peak load is between 35 to 40 megawatts.

"Our current capacity at Power Plant 1 is 38 [megawatts] and at Power Plant 2 is six, and at Power Plant 4 is 10," he said.

In response to the question of Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) as to why the monthly billings of the consumers have tripled, Voerg said electric charges for CUC are based on three principles: One is a financial administrative fee and that is a flat rate. The second part is the base charges, which are used for operation and maintenance of the equipment and the supply lines to produce and supply power to individual homes and businesses in the CNMI. The third component is the Fuel Adjustment Charge, which is the direct payment to CUC's fuel supplier.

Voerg said that CUC's base rates for providing and producing electricity outside of fuel has not changed since 2014. "What changes on the monthly basis is the cost of the fuel. CUC's electricity is generated by diesel-driven generators," he said

Voerg said that, as fuel prices increase, those fuel price increases are passed along to the customers.

He said the formula for calculating that increase was established by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

"So that is outside of CUC's control as well," he added.

GAS

From Page 1

from $6.41 per gallon of their regular fuel to $6.16 a gallon. Also, Mobil now charges $6.61 per gallon of its Supreme Fuel from $6.86 while diesel was also reduced from $7.38 per gallon to $7.13.

The back-to-back price rollback was a welcome relief for most members of the CNMI community, given that CNMI fuel prices have been gradually increasing in the past few months.

A 25-year-old local motorist said it's always a welcome surprise to see fuel prices going down.

"Whenever I pull up to the pump and see another reduction in fuel prices, it's always like opening a present to find money inside. It doesn't matter how much money you get, but you're just always happy to get cash as gifts. That's how I feel when I see prices have gone down. It doesn't matter if its 10 cents or 25 cents, it's always exciting," she said.

Another motorist, a 52-year-old man, said he was surprised to see fuel prices go down again after just one day.

"I had to look twice to make sure it was real. It's unbelievable that after only one day, gas went down another 25 cents. In total, that's a 40-cent rollback in just one week. I just pray this continues," he said.

The latest increase in fuel prices happened just two weeks ago, with local oil companies across Saipan raising prices by 15 cents.

Prior to that increase, in the first week of June, fuel prices were increased 15 cents.

A steady increase in fuel prices was also seen throughout the month of May with the last increase of 15 cents seen on May 20.

However, oil companies have been raising their prices by 15 cents since April.

The steepest increase was back in April 20, when local oil companies increased their prices by 20 cents, bringing regular fuel prices up to $5.96 a gallon.

HERBERT

From Page 1

ing in Hawaii as a result of a pre-existing condition. He was surrounded by his family.

Soll was the first judge named to the Commonwealth Trial Court back in 1979. He was tasked with the responsibility of organizing the court and he served as the only judge on island for six months until the appointment of Chief Judge Robert Hefner and Judge Robert Moore. Soll worked tirelessly all day and instituted a night court session as well in his early days with the Trial Court.

In addition to serving as associate judge, Soll was appointed, and served as a justice pro tempore for the CNMI Supreme Court.

In his lifetime, Soll was a former Peace Corps volunteer in Brazil before he served as the Chief Public Defender of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In addition to serving as a judge, he served as deputy attorney general from 1993 to 1996 and as a hearing officer for the Department of Labor and Immigration from 1996 to 1999, while also giving back to this community by teaching at Northern Marianas College.

In a brief statement from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, he said the CNMI will always remember Soll's historic contribution to the islands.

"On behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, I would like to extend my condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of the former attorney general and the Commonwealth's first Trial Court judge, the Honorable Herbert D. Soll. We remember and thank him for his [historic] contributions to the NMI throughout his career and lifetime. May he rest in peace," said Torres.

A news release from the NMI Supreme Court stated that Soll was instrumental in the success of the CNMI's judicial system.

"It is with great sadness that we learned of [his] passing. …Judge Soll was truly a titan in the legal profession and instrumental in the success of our judicial system. Without his leadership and perseverance in the infancy stages of the Commonwealth, the court would not have likely made the strides it has in the past decades," the news release stated.

In a brief statement from Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, he said Soll's contributions and dedication to improving the Commonwealth, and the Pacific region as a whole, cannot be overstated

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Judge Soll. While serving as public defender, Herb anticipated the establishment of a Commonwealth between the NMI and the United States, and worked to send the trial assistants employed at the office of the public defender, including myself, to study under the Faculty of Law at the University of Papua New Guinea. I credit my successes in the legal field to his foresight and guidance. Judge Soll's legacy will endure and his passion for justice will continue to be felt at the Judiciary years from now," Castro said.

NAP office closed on July 11

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Nutrition Assistance Program informs the public and NAP recipients that NAP Office will be closed on Monday, July 11, 2022, in lieu of the administrative leave granted for July 5.

The NAP Office was open on July 5 to continue distributing benefits as published in a previously issued schedule from July 1 to 8, 2022.

The NAP Office will resume operations on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. ***(PR)***

BUDGET

From Page 1

In his revised proposed budget submitted last Friday to House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Torres said the revision reflect changes, among others, the $475,000 allocated to the Northern Marianas Sports Association to support athletes.

The revised budget submission reflects changes to Volume 4 (American Rescue Plan Act Fund), among others, funding for the remaining 20% of wages to maintain 80-hour weeks, and $400,000 to the Northern Marianas Sports Association to support athletes who will participate in the 2023 Pacific Mini Games and the Micronesian Games.

Torres said that, as of June 30, 2022, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig had reported no changes to the gross budgetary resources of $150,415,492 for fiscal year 2023.

However, the governor said, an update on the Minimum Annual Payment received by the NMI Settlement Fund has resulted in a change to the CNMI's net budgetary resources from $101,352,567 to $104,352,567.

He said the Planning and Budgeting Act affords him the opportunity to revise their April proposed budget submission.

Torres said the revision reflects changes to Volume 1 (proposed net budgetary resources), Volume 2 to reflect changes to personnel listing as of May 31, 2022, and Volume 4 to reflect the remaining 20% allocation of personnel salaries, among other items.

Torres said the revision in Volume 1 (general fund) includes $75,000 allocation to the Northern Marianas Sports Association to support athletes invited for representation at off-island sporting events.

He said the other changes to Volume 1 are the following:

- Additional 25% allocation to the Public School System as a result of the increase to net budgetary resources.
- The 100% allocation of funds for personnel and operational funding to the Judiciary and Legislature.
- The 80% allocation of personnel funding with the exception of constitutionally mandated salaries.
- $103,020 to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for its mandatory local matching as required by its grantor.
- The allocation of funds for personnel to the Department of Corrections for its 9th Cycle Corrections Academy.

Torres said the $150.41 million gross revenue resources are derived from taxes such as business gross revenue taxes, income taxes, excise taxes, and other taxes such as hotel, bar, and beautification taxes, which make up 91% of total budgetary resources.

He said the revisions continue to reflect the proposed suspension of earmarks from his April 1, 2022, submission as recommended by House Concurrent Resolution 22-1, HD1.

Torres said the net resources available has now changed from $101,352,567 to $104,352,567.

Torres said the budget allocation for personnel in the general fund remains unchanged at 80%, with the exception of constitutionally mandated salaries, elected officials, and all other personnel at the Judiciary and Legislature.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PSS

From Page 2

be provided either a mobile device or a computer to complete the registration form. Every school will have a "Kiosk Link" that will allow them to fill out a registration form if parents do not have an email address. It is highly recommended that every parent or guardian have their own personal email address that only they have access to. Do not share or borrow someone else's email address as this will be used to open up the "Parent Portal" account.

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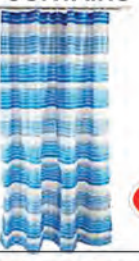
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FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GENERAL AIRPORT TYPHOON YUTU FENCE REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the procurement, furnishing and installation of chain link fencing and accessories (commercial and industrial grades), for the installation and general Typhoon Yutu repair/replacement work of its chain-link fences per this Scope of Work and associated Contract Documents, located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Project shall be in compliance with all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations. This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225.

The CPA Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an invitation for bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because CPA wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone, or that factors other than price, such as technical expertise and/or the quality of materials, should be considered in determining the successful contractor.

Proposals shall be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2ND floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of CPA.

Contractors are requested to submit one original and four (4) copies of their proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for General Airport Typhoon Yutu Fence Repairs and Replacements, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-003-19".**

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Accounting Office upon payment of $50.00 per package. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeds what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. Criteria for scoring proposals and proposal submission requirements are detailed in the Proposal Requirement section of the SOW.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director, Christopher S. Tenorio, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the proposal submission date. Contractors are welcome to inspect the facilities that are not within any secured locations; however, site visits for the Air Traffic Control Tower and ARFF Training Facility should be coordinated with Ms. Prater at telephone number 670-237-6500 or via the email address written above. Responses to all questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who picked up a proposal package.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Therefore, proposers and their subcontractors must hold their proposal prices in effect for up to 180 calendar days.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d–4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 28, 2022

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on July 20, 2022, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Saipan World Resort – Sunflower Room.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of July 20, 2022
IV. Review & Adoption of Special Meeting Minutes of June 07, 2022
V. Action Item
  a. Review and Approve Proposed CDD's 2022-2026 State Plan Amendments
VI. Reports
  a Chairman
  b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. Executive Director
VII. New Business
  a. State Agency Presentations for the CNMI Comprehensive Review & Analysis Report
  b. Robert's Rules of Order Refresher
  c. DNP Forum
  d. VOICES of the CNMI – Meet Your Policymaker/Candidate Activity
  e. NDEAM 2022
  f. Accessible Recreational Project
  g. Service System Needs Assessment
VIII. Old Business
  a. Movie Night Update
  b. DNP Quality Assurance Retreat Update
IX. Miscellaneous
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award total $274,744 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Donations sought for the Man'amko Center

Concerned citizen Grace Sablan is seeking help from the community to donate and replace some of the items that were stolen from the Saipan Man'amko Center.

In an appeal on social media, Sablan said the items were not only used daily by many of Saipan's elderly but were mostly purchased through the hard work of the elderly themselves such as the many fundraising efforts they have been doing.

The Man'amko Center was burglarized in the latter part of June. Thousands of dollars' worth of musical equipment, tools and TV's were stolen from the center by still unknown perpetrators.

"I'm reaching out to the community to come together as one. We need to unite for this cause. Our elders are the pillars of our culture and our families. This crime targeted our elderly—one of the more vulnerable age groups in our community—and it should not be tolerated. We need to work toward replacing these tools and instruments so that our elders can once again continue their craft and daily living," Sablan said.

To donate items or cash, visit the Man'amko Aging Center in Gualo Rai on July 30, 2022, from 8am to 5pm or call Sablan at (670) 286-1977. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Youth Congress session today

This is to inform the public that the 18th CNMI Youth Congress will convene its First Day, 2nd Special Session today, July 8, 2022, at 11am in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill. ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars this July. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **July 7 – How to Register in SAM** – Vendors need an active SAM registration to participate in Federal contracting. The SAM registration process recently changed. The Guam PTAC will take you through the new registration process as well as the new annual renewal process.

■ **July 14 – Federal Contract Opportunities –** SAM.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to use the website to ensure you do not miss any opportunities. Opportunity types, search filters, and search strategies will be discussed.

■ **July 21 – How to Get HUBZone Certified** – All of Guam and the CNMI are HUBZones. The Guam PTAC will take you through the certification process, the required supporting documents, and follow-up requirements from SBA.

■ **July 28 – How to Get WOSB Certified** – WOSB is an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the online certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

To register, visit: https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: July 08, 2022 **CLOSING DATE: July 25, 2022 TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2022-021	1- Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Program Administrative Specialist	$25,000.00 per annum - UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

$6.8K in federal financial aid available for NMC students

Qualified NMC students can receive up to $6,800 in federal financial aid.

NMC

Prospective and current students of Northern Marianas College may be eligible for up to $6,895 in Pell Grants for the upcoming fall and spring semesters. Students who are looking to access these funds are encouraged to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA before NMC's fall 2022 semester begins on Aug. 15, 2022.

Students who need assistance in completing the FAFSA are encouraged to attend the upcoming free workshop on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, from 9am to 11am.

The workshops will provide personal assistance in completing the FAFSA form before the Aug. 1, 2022, application deadline for the fall 2022 semester. The workshops are open to both new and ongoing students, as well as interested members in the community.

Workshop participants can also have their scholarship documents and other paperwork photocopied free of charge. Participants will also qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived.

Participants are encouraged to bring documents such as valid identification (passport or birth certificate), copies of their high school diploma, copies of official transcripts, and tax return information for the years 2020 and 2021.

For individuals who will not be able to make it to the July 13 workshop, NMC will be hosting additional workshops on the following dates:

■ Wednesday, July 20, 2022, 1pm – 3pm;

■ Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 9am – 11am and 4pm – 6pm;

■ Thursday July 28, 2022, 10am – 12pm and 4pm – 6pm;

The college will also host a free information session on Friday, July 15, 2022. Attendees of the info session will qualify to have their NMC fall 2022 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and admissions.

For more information please contact the Financial Aid Office at fao@marianas.edu or at 237-6791/2/3/4. ***(NMC)***

Maratita is excited and ready to take on her new responsibilities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former House of the Representatives member Janet U. Maratita is excited and ready to take on her new responsibilities of being a part of the decision-making processes in the Senate.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Maratita confirmed that she is running for a Senate seat under the NMI Democratic Party in the Nov. 8 general election.

Maratita, who is currently off-island, said in an email yesterday that she wants to represent the entire Third Senatorial District-Saipan in the Senate to ensure that policies reflect the culture and unique island values of the Commonwealth.

Maratita

"I want to ensure that our government works to serve our people and not the other way around," the former lawmaker said.

Maratita believes that her experience as a single mother, grandmother, and long-time public servant in the Legislature will enhance her ability to take on the potential challenges that may come the CNMI's way.

She said her experiences will also provide her with unique insights when working with her colleagues to seek solutions and in making the critical decisions that must be made that affect the lives of people and the state of home.

After five terms of serving the people of Precinct 1 as their House representative, Maratita did not seek re-election in the November 2020 general election.

She said she decided to take some time away from the political arena to focus on personal matters and the strengthening of her health.

"Nevertheless, my desire and will to serve the people of Saipan and our great Commonwealth has not gone in vain," she said.

Maratita said citizens deserve nothing less than elected representation that will keep their best interests at heart.

Maratita said that in the same manner in which she has pledged to represent, protect, and serve the best interests of the people of Precinct 1 as a member of the House, she aspires to be a senator "who is compassionate, responsive, and of no special interest."

Rep. Angel Aldan Demapan is also running for a Senate Saipan seat under the Republican Party. Representing Precinct 1, Demapan is currently the minority leader of the House.

Three other individuals are expected to file their candidacies for senator of Saipan, which has two positions up for grabs.

The three are Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), and former Commerce secretary and representative Andrew Sablan Salas.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public landis described as Lot No. 126 D 01 containing an area of approximately 4,449 square meters, more or less, situated in Navy Hill, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Creative Capital Corporation The lists of officers for Creative Capital Corporation are Angelina L. Villagomez President, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer MA Rosario De La Torre.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Ms. Angelina L. Villagomez.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of Childhood Education and Care Center.

The term of the public land lease agreement is 40 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the JoetenDandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in ***Navy Hill, Saipan***.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, July 15, 2022 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñiha para u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattidå intirisao gi halum hinirât pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Komu mapribeni mås mo'na ginen i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 126 D 01 ni kunsissisti kåsi 4,449 square meters, ni gaigi gi hålum Navy Hill, iya Saipan. I kopian påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website i www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee i Creative Capital Corporation. I listan nu ufisiåt siha para i Creative Capital Corporation sa si Angelina L. Villagomez, komu Presidenti, Sigunda Presidenti/Sekritåria/Tresåriu si MA Rosario De La Torre.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ni as Siñorita Angelina L. Villagomez.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha' na rason nu "Childhood Education" yan "Care Center".

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' kuarenta (40) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' såkkan gi duråntin i teman kuntråtan i atkilon mapega gi put sientus i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt.

v. I kopian i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, giya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan nu i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na u managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi ***Navy Hill, Saipan.***

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Hulio 15, 2022, gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL KKAPASAL PPWOMWOL ATKKILOONOOL

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkáåw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Ppwomwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálo bwe Lot No. 126 D 01 e lo bwe 4,449 reel square meters, e lapaló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Navy Hill, Seipél. Eyoor pappidil falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website me www.dpl.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Ppwomwol schóól atkkilóón nge Creative Capital Corporation. List-al officers ngáli Creative Capital Corporation nge Angelina L. Villagomez bwe Presidente, Vice President/Secretóória/Treasurer nge MA Rosario De La Torre.

iii. Ppwomwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Ms. Angelina L. Villagomez.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli Childhood Education me Care Center.

Ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge fááigh ráágh.

Ppwomwol atkkilóón ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage of the appraised fair market value" reel falúw.

v. Pappidil ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel JoetenDandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél, 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor me Kings Commercial Building me Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwomw iye e siiweli falúw reel atkkilóónol falúw me ***Navy Hill, Seipél***.

vii. Sekkretóóriyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil kkapas, "views", angiingi ngáre ppwomw ikka aa siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil, Ullyo 15, 2022 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap imwu e lo wóól Seipél, Luuta ngáre Tchiliyól.

JROTC takes part in July 4 parade

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadets from the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program of Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Tinian High School, and Rota High School march as a brigade for the 4th of July Parade last Monday.

Cadets from the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program of Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Tinian High School, and Rota High School gathered as a brigade for the 4th of July Parade last Monday.

Before the parade started, they practiced and were preparing until it was time for the parade to start. The battalion commanders from each school led the whole brigade, followed by the cadets who were carrying their battalion colors.

The rest of the cadets were marching arranged by height from the tallest to shortest. A few cadets and the instructors called cadence while marching.

When they were almost nearing the end point at the reviewing stand, the cadets were commanded to halt and were ordered to present arms to the CNMI dignitaries and other special guests. Once they finally reached their ending point, cadets had their last formation for the day. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536TTY: (670) 322-6449;
E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2022 Third General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at Aqua Resort Club, Taga Room from 9:00AM to 11:00AM.
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of July 13, 2022.

IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of the Statewide Independent Living Council first general membership meeting of May 25, 2022.

V. Reports
a. SILC Chairperson
b. CLI Executive Director
c. OVR Executive Director

VI. Old Business
a. Orientation Training July 13, 2022 from 12:30PM to 2:00PM
b. FY 2022 SPIL Report update
c. Tinian Membership

VII. New Business
a. New Members

VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous

IX. Next general membership meeting: _____

X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Mr. Samuel Santos (OVR Transition Specialist) at 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY) or email samuel@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements no later than Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

/s/ **Consolacion Atalig**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Title VI-B Independent Living Services, ACL Grant.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 002

Opening Date: June 22, 2022
Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician-Electrician**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00to $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Five (5)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Generation. Primary duties as a TRADES TECHNICIAN: ELECTRICIAN for a diesel engine power plant.

Duties:
- Performs maintenance, operations, installations, troubleshooting and/or repairs of Generator, switchgears and engine control panels of various brands/make/model, Motor Control Center, Transformer, Protection relays and overhead crane.
- Read and interpret electrical diagrams and codes, USA standards, Japanese standards, European standards, & NEC (National Electrical Code).
- Knowledge in AC/DC system, Single and three phase system, Lighting and outlets, Paging system, Fire alarm & Battery bank.
- Familiar with the usage of various electrical test equipment; Multimeter tester, Insulation resistance tester, Transformer tester, Ground resistance tester, & Hydrometer.
- Familiar with the usage of various electrical tools Crimper, Pipe bender, Hydraulic knock out puncher, Pipe threader, Micrometer, & Vernier caliper.
- Familiar with the usage of various power and pneumatic tools, Portable drill, Grinder, & Impact wrench.
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment. Emergency generator, Forklift, & Overhead crane.
- Attend to Trouble calls after normal working hours.
- Maintains daily reports. Practices SAFETY, Cleans, organizes and maintains work areas.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Electrician or related field. Must demonstrate having had 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant. 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in performing electrical duties.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Mechanical and electrical principles, practices and operations of power plant equipment. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Performing inspections and analyzing system and equipment data; Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standard operating procedures; Monitoring plant equipment and making adjustments; Identifying electrical and mechanical issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Initiating requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Must be available to work 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends, holidays, and on-call.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(RE-ANNOUCEMENT)

JVA No. 22 – 016

Opening Date: June 22, 2022
Closing Date: July 6, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**IT Technician**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Information Technology**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$22,865.00 - $30,867.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of COA/IT Division.

Duties:
- Provides end user support for technology hardware, software, telecommunications, AV and/or peripheral systems; sets up equipment ensuring proper cabling; performs installation, testing, patches/upgrades, and maintenance activities in support of technology operations.
- Performs call and in-person Tier I and Tier II technical support to end users; prioritizes requests; responds to queries; researches system documentation as required; provides instruction to users; implements solutions to computer and network issues.
- Monitors and maintains user accounts for various systems; creates and initiates user accounts on network server and other systems; troubleshoots connectivity issues and resolves communication problems or refers complex issues to appropriate resource.
- Assists in evaluating and testing new software and equipment; documents and provides feedback of testing results.
- Sets up and installs systems and AV equipment for training purposes.
- Perform other duties of similar nature and level as assigned by management.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Associates Degree in Information Technology or directly related field and 1 years of related professional information technology experience; or High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 3 years of experience related to technology support.; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.
Knowledge of: Applicable hardware, software, system and technology principles, methods and support techniques; Systems analysis and design methods, procedures and techniques; Business methods, principles and practices; Customer service principles; Database maintenance principles; Modern office technology; Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.
Skills in: Providing analysis and design in support of information technology and business processes; Evaluating and maintaining existing systems and equipment; Developing and implementing technology solutions to meet business requirements; Analyzing system performance, troubleshooting issues and maintaining system functionality; Monitoring, configuring, installing, testing and maintaining assigned systems and equipment; Preparing and maintaining reports, system documentation, and procedures; Providing technical end-user support and training of software and systems; Prioritizing requests and managing time; Serving as technical liaison with internal staff and external service providers; Recommending the acquisition of software and equipment; Providing customer service; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

JVA No. 22 – 054

Opening Date: June 22, 2022
Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician-Operator**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00to $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Power Generation Division.

Duties:
- Responsible for the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trunks to storage tanks.
- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities.
- Responsible for monitoring of all Plant systems as assigned.
- Will act as the responsible person when working without supervision. Responsible for entire plant during operating periods.
- May direct and/or instruct all other personnel as required during all other periods.
- May be on call for emergency response.
- Operates, controls, monitors and inspects generators, switchgears, motor controls, transformers, protection relays, circuit breakers, compressors, RO system and other associated equipment.
- Performs analysis, maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs of 8 megawatt, 13 megawatt Mitsubishi-MAN diesel engines to include engine auxiliary equipment in the main Power Plant and provide the same services on the small Power Plant with 2.5 megawatt Electromotive Division (EMD) units.
- Ensures work is within Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) engineering specifications and quality levels.
- Takes readings from meters, gauges and computers at established intervals, reads and interprets data to take corrective steps as necessary.
- Inspects records and log book entries, and communicates with other plant personnel in order to assess equipment-operating status.
- Performs systems operations to regulate and coordinate transmission load, frequencies and line voltages.
- Identifies potential issues and operational concerns; performs operational inspections and symptomatic maintenance; provides status reports; evaluates and implements solutions and corrective actions under emergency situations.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Considerable knowledge in operation, repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities. Must demonstrate having had (A) Four (4) years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant operations and (B) those four years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing operator duties.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Mechanical and electrical principles, practices and operations of power plant equipment. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: IPerforming inspections and analyzing system and equipment data; Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standard operating procedures; Monitoring plant equipment and making adjustments; Identifying electrical and mechanical issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Initiating requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Must be available to work 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends, holidays, and on-call.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
REVISED

JVA No. 22 – 008

Opening Date: June 22, 2022
Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician, Machinist**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 to $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:
- Operates and maintains lathe, milling machines and machine tools.
- Reviews blueprints, sketches, drawings, manuals, specification, or sample part to determine dimensions and tolerances of finished workpiece, sequence of operations and set requirements.
- Measures, marks, and scribes dimensions and reference points on material or work-piece as guides for subsequent machining as necessary.
- Selects, aligns, and secures holding fixtures, cutting tools, attachments, accessories, and materials on machines as necessary to machine parts as required.
- Calculates and sets controls to regulate machining factors such as speed, feed, coolant flow and depth and angle of cut according to established guidelines and procedures.
- Starts and observes machine operation to detect malfunctions or out-of-tolerance machining, and adjusts machine controls or control media as required.
- Verifies conformance of finished work-piece to specifications, using measuring and inspection tools as necessary.
- Sets up and operates machine on trial run to verify accuracy of machine settings.
- Takes precise measurements for cutting or shaping.
- Selects appropriate machine and settings for a given task.
- Plans proper sequence of tasks to complete the assignment.
- Monitors adjusting feed and other settings as necessary.
- Identifies need for and performs machine maintenance and minor repairs.
- Maintains a safe and clean workstation.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related tasks as needed.
- Confers with senior engineer or others to resolve machining problems.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing machinist duties. Apprenticeship or vocational training preferred.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Strong attention to details and accuracy; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift up to 50 pounds and perform repetitive tasks.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- **Physical Demands:**
  - o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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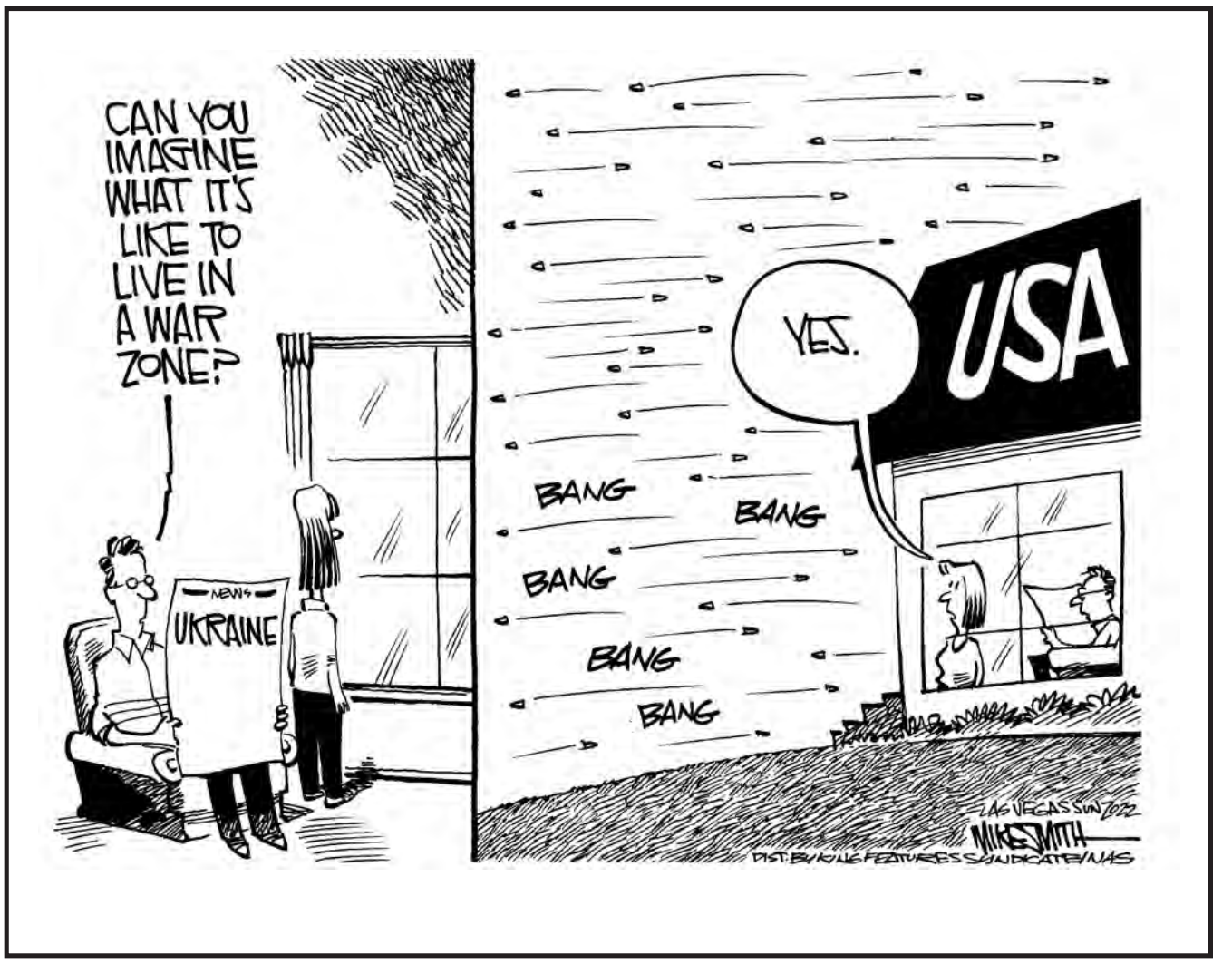

EDITORIAL

July 4 mass shooting drives home how much America has left to do on gun reform

Every mass shooting in America is a tragedy, but the one that killed seven people near Chicago Monday was especially jolting, as it combined two singularly American phenomena: the nation's annual celebration of its independence and the chronic scourge of gun violence at a level unheard of in the rest of the advanced world. Why was a 21-year-old man who had posted violent imagery glamorizing mass shootings able to legally buy a weapon of war and at least 70 rounds of ammunition, and take it to a rooftop over a July 4 parade? That ludicrous scenario was as uniquely American as the parade itself.

The bipartisan, better-than-nothing gun safety measure President Joe Biden signed into law late last month might help prevent future shootings like this when it's fully implemented (it isn't yet), because it will create expanded background-check requirements for gun buyers between ages 18 and 21. But the attack also dramatizes, in several ways, what remains to be done.

For example, the reason authorities were able to so quickly identify the alleged shooter was that the AR-15-style rifle he left behind was legally purchased, with a serial number that allowed federal authorities, working with local police, to trace it to the seller and, from there, obtain the buyer's identity. But the new federal law doesn't close a loophole that allows buyers to avoid federally licensed dealers who keep such records, instead buying anonymously from private sellers in states that don't impose universal background checks.

Had the shooter bought his gun in Missouri, for example, he could have bought it anonymously from a private dealer who wouldn't be required to keep records of the transaction. Even tracing the serial number might have been a problem in Missouri because such tracing is done by the feds. Missouri's deranged new statute declaring federal gun restrictions unenforceable here has local police officials hesitant to work with federal law enforcement at any level for fear of inadvertently violating that law.

Nationwide restrictions on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines — like the restrictions on fully automatic weapons that have worked well for decades — could prevent some of these shootings, as could truly universal background checks and a nationwide red flag law to replace the current patchwork of state laws.

There is no constitutional impediment to reasonable gun restrictions, as even the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia specified in his role as the court's most adamant Second Amendment enthusiast. There are only political im-

See JULY on Next Page

Boris Johnson and the longest goodbye

By MARTIN IVENS
Bloomberg Opinion

Martin Ivens is the editor of the Times Literary Supplement*. Previously, he was editor of the* Sunday Times of London *and its chief political commentator.*

Boris Johnson is the condemned man who refuses to die. For seven months, hardly without a week's intermission, he has blustered his way through a series of scandals and pratfalls that would have toppled most titans of post-war British politics. To the intense irritation of his foes and rivals, he refused to accept the political death sentence.

By tea time on Tuesday, the almost simultaneous resignation of Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak and Health Secretary Sajid Javid, however, looked like the end at last for the U.K.'s mercurial prime minister. A slew of junior ministers followed in their wake. At furious speed, No. 10 cobbled together untested replacements. The sound of barrels being scraped resounded around Westminster.

This time, his premiership seems fatally wounded. How long the demise takes will determine the possible outcome of the U.K.'s next election and the future of his party.

Sunak and Johnson were supposed to make a joint statement on the economy next week. But the chancellor was frustrated by the air of permanent crisis hanging over government and contradictory policy-making: his resignation letter declared he had been prepared to compromise and accept collective responsibility for decisions he didn't agree with, but his differences with the prime minister were now too great to continue in office. In other words, the prime minister wants to buy off voters' enraged by tax rises and inflation while the chancellor has nightmares about the mounting deficit. Sunak's fiscal orthodoxy could no longer be reconciled with Johnson's free-spending ways.

Another sucker punch came from Javid, the health secretary, who told Johnson in his farewell missive that "you have lost my confidence too" and boldly questioned the prime minister's integrity. Javid has resigned from this government before, after serving as a short-lived chancellor. This time he declared "that the public are ready to hear the truth." In which case, he implied, they haven't been hearing it from No. 10.

Yet Johnson's political assassination has been as slow and incompetent as that of Rasputin: Disgruntled aristocrats tried arsenic, bullets from a revolver and drowning in the frozen river Neva before they finally dispatched "the mad monk" who was the favorite of the czar. Johnson, too, somehow manages to keep his head up above water.

Police investigations and civil service inquiries into the "partygate" scandal at No. 10 tripped over each other and failed to finish the prime minister off earlier this year, even though he was fined for breaking his own lockdown rules. Even a recent parliamentary revolt didn't topple him — although as many as 148 Conservative MPs declared they had no confidence in his helmsmanship. Had the rebels waited for the results of two catastrophic by-election defeats for the government a fortnight later, Johnson would most likely have been toast.

Remembering the Cabinet revolt that heralded the downfall of Margaret Thatcher — Britain's toughest, most successful prime minister — Tory dissidents have recently been begging senior ministers in public and private to send Johnson packing. The Cabinet has the ultimate responsibility to call time on a leader who can't lead. But the old adage that "he who wields the knife never wears the crown" — and the knowledge that many lightweight loyalists around Johnson are unlikely to see high office under another Tory prime minister — ensured that ranks remained unbroken. Until now.

Even so, it will be remembered among the rank and file that both departing ministers have American green cards in their pockets, which allow them to reside and work in the U.S. Sunak, a highly employable former Goldman Sachs executive with A-list global business contacts, unwisely suggested in his resignation letter that the Treasury might be his last ministerial post.

This challenge may have been led by well-heeled plutocrats, but how much dissembling can Johnson's MPs, party and the country at large bear? The latest grubby sex scandal involving a whip, Chris Pincher, whose job was to exert party discipline and personally promoted by the prime minister, has humiliated cabinet colleagues who were expected to defend the prime minister's falsehoods.

Johnson sent out minister after minister to back No. 10's denial that he knew of Pincher's predatory sexual conduct before giving him the job. On Sunday, a cabinet ally protested, "I am not aware that he was made aware of specific claims." By Monday, according to another minister Johnson was unaware of "any serious specific allegation." Yet it was soon revealed that John-

See BORIS on Next Page

New small business survey designed to gain insight into how to better support business owners

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By ALEX BK YOUN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Alex BK Youn is the president of AC Pacific LLC-I Love Saipan Stores, the largest retail and gift store operator on Saipan. As a major stakeholder in the industry, he serves as a member of the Small Business Development and Retention Committee on the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

When I first started my business back in August 2009, there were a few hiccups. Thirteen years later, I'm still seeing the same problems that prevent businesses from starting as planned. We still have a long way to go, and I can confidently say that there have been various government agencies working behind the scenes to get things started, but they do need a little push.

Now on its second year, the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers has shifted from three committees to seven committees to better address the needs of the Marianas. Joe Guerrero, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and I co-chair the Small Business Development and Retention Committee. Our committee is tasked with contributing to the ongoing 10-year economic plan to create a blueprint of what the Marianas aims to achieve by 2030.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Our committee seeks to gain insight into the issues that small businesses face when doing business in the Marianas. As a small business owner, I can speak only about what I've been through. Other business owners may face other challenges. It is our goal to get a broader understanding of the state of doing business locally, and how our government can better support business owners and provide a better environment in which we can do business. By improving the climate in which we do business, we can also open doors for aspiring business owners to take the next step.

This year, one of the issues that I'd like to address is what is considered a small business. As of 2017, the Small Business Association's term for a small business is a business that has 500 employees or fewer. While this may be relevant in other markets, it is most likely different for us. Another issue that we'd like to address is how to help small businesses access the many funding opportunities available to them.

The past month, with the help of the Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and GCEA, we drafted and launched the Marianas Business Pride 2022 CNMI Small Business Survey and Friends of Business Summit. We are inviting all small business owners in the CNMI to fill out the survey and help us gain the insight we need to better support them. The survey is open through July 15 at cnmieconomy.com. When the survey closes on July 15, we will then compile the data that will help us address our local issues. Overall, we aim to address issues faced by the many CNMI business owners—micro, small, medium, or big.

I want to emphasize that this survey is completely anonymous and there's no way that it could be linked back to the respondent. The survey includes questions about business size, number of employees, revenue, and more. From there, the data will be useful in bringing up conversations with the current and future administrations to see how we can better address the issues our small businesses are facing.

I would like to also take this time to personally invite our small businesses to the Friends of Business Summit at the Hyatt Ballroom on July 21 from 12pm to 5pm. SBDC, SCC, and GCEA will be hosting an expo that includes lunch and presentations from public and private sectors.

I encourage the small business community to participate in the survey and sign up to attend the event to help GCEA narrow down priorities for the years to come. Our needs are very different from other countries, and as an island nation our challenges are unique. We are the backbone of our local economy, so let's join together for the benefit of all small businesses.

I'd like to also thank our partners from the Korean, Chinese, and Filipino associations for taking the time to meet with GCEA regarding the Small Business Summit on July 21. Their valuable input and recommendations have been taken seriously, and we value their partnership in strengthening our local economy. Together, we can!

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

US elections require a permanent structure for fighting foreign interference

By DAVID LEVINE
The Fulcrum

David Levine is an elections integrity fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy, which develops strategies to deter and defend against autocratic efforts to interfere in democratic institutions.

The National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command recently reestablished their election security team to help secure the 2022 midterm elections. In light of Independent Sen. Angus King's push for Cybercom to produce unclassified reports connected with each biennial election, which comes on the heels of increased alarm about foreign election interference and diminishing faith in the integrity of U.S. elections, this is the last time the team should be reassembled. U.S. democracy would be more secure with a permanent, not periodic, presence in preventing and mitigating foreign interference attacks.

First, foreign interference is a strategy, not a tactic – and that means attacks are executed over a continuous time period, and are not episodic in nature. So must be our defenses. While discussion of nation-state influence operations may often focus on efforts to interfere with major U.S. elections, adversaries, such as Russia, have repeatedly demonstrated that they seek to undermine democracies and their institutions on an ongoing basis through any number of means, including disinformation, emerging technologies, malign finance and cyberattacks.

If the NSA/Cybercom election security team is tracking malign actors' activities on an ongoing basis, there would be no need for the team to stand up and down. It could also improve the team's sharing of actionable intelligence regarding threats to U.S. elections. In 2020, when Iranian actors targeted election infrastructure and American voters in an attempt to undermine the election, intelligence was quickly analyzed, downgraded, and shared with American officials and the American public. A permanent NSA/Cyber Command election security team could help ensure that such a process is the rule, not the exception.

Second, the U.S. domestic information space following the 2020 presidential election is now consistently filled with content that malign actors can amplify to achieve their aims. Whether it's taking advantage of the exposure of sensitive information about election equipment or voter data, or leveraging the unprecedented exodus of election officials to further undermine confidence in the elections process, there is plenty in the current state of affairs for our enemies to exploit. As Army Maj. Gen. William Hartman, who leads the national cyber mission responsible for defending against foreign threats, recently noted, "I expect that there will be a fair amount of domestically generated information that the Russians will freely amplify."

Third, elections take place across America all the time when you factor in state and local elections, and our adversaries know that. While some of these smaller elections may not draw much voter interest, that does not mean malicious actors seeking to interfere in the voting process or influence voter perceptions are staying on the sidelines as well. For example, following Ohio's 2019 elections, Secretary of State Frank LaRose reported that his state detected and thwarted an election-related cyberattack on his office's website, an attack that allegedly originated in Panama but was traced to a Russian-owned company. And earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Justice charged five defendants with crimes related to efforts by the secret police of the People's Republic of China to stalk, harass and spy on Chinese nationals residing in the United States. One of the defendants allegedly hired a private investigator in New York to disrupt the campaign of a Brooklyn resident running for Congress, including by physically attacking the victim.

While state and local election officials are largely getting better at safeguarding their elections, having the full capabilities of the federal government to assist with this task is critical. As the Department of Homeland Security noted in its October 2020 Homeland Threat Assessment: "Adversaries' cyber capabilities vary greatly – as does the cyber defensive posture of electoral boards to stymie such actors." Having the NSA/Cyber Command election security team in place on a permanent basis could help local election jurisdictions level up and ensure the integrity of all American elections, no matter how big or small the vote.

Finally, having a permanent election security team under leadership that can only be fired for cause, which serves lengthy terms that do not coincide with presidential terms, could help insulate the team's work from undue political pressure. In April, the Department of Homeland Security proposed forming a Disinformation Governance Board to, among other things, counter Russian cyber and election information. While such a board could help bolster the federal government's battle against disinformation, a poor rollout and partisan blowback are raising significant questions about its future. Around the same time, a DHS inspector general report found that a top administration official in former President Donald Trump's administration delayed and altered an intelligence product about Russian interference in the 2020 election, leading to the perception that it was changed to help Trump's re-election bid.

The NSA/Cyber Command election security team has a track record of solid, nonpartisan work. Allowing it to continuously monitor foreign threats to elections not only increases the likelihood that the intelligence it shares with the election community is helpful; it would also make it harder for political actors to undermine the team for its own ends.

The recent developments at DHS raise legitimate questions over whether America will treat future threats of foreign interference as a partisan issue or one of national security. Making the NSA/ Cyber Command election security team a permanent entity and further insulating it from short-term political pressures moving forward increases the likelihood of the latter.

JULY

From Page 10

pediments, imposed by an extremist minority of lawmakers and judges who block even the most commonsense reforms.

The ultimate reform must start at the voting booth. Until that happens, America will continue to be held hostage every day — even on its birthday — by those who insist, wrongly and grotesquely, that nonstop carnage is the price of freedom.

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BORIS

From Page 10

son had once joked "Pincher by name, pincher by nature" about his disgraced ally.

It looks awful to voters that even friends of the prime minister are now writing his political obituaries. I was at a gathering of people sympathetic to Johnson this week and it struck me how many remembered his ability from his Oxford days onward to acquire a large body of loyalists and fellow travelers while supported by a small tight core of intimates. That talent sustained him through many storms.

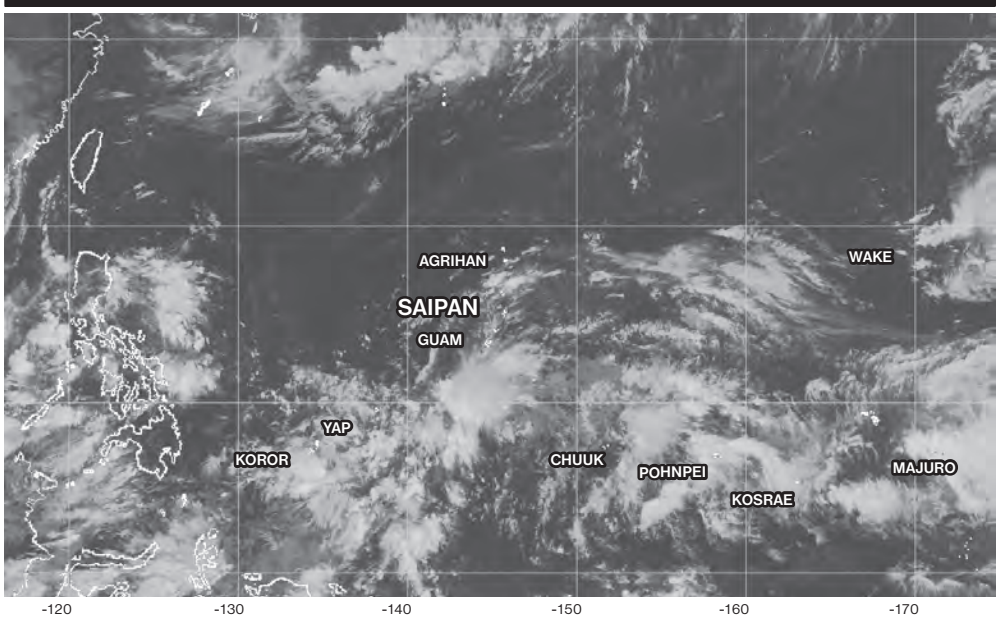
Today, the opportunistic loyalists are fading away or writing "Dear Boris" letters of rueful resignation. The result is a barrel-scraped Cabinet and a prime minister clinging on by his fingertips. Neither a good look for the government nor a sound bet for Britain's Conservatives.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy.	Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy.	Mostly cloudy,	Partly sunny.	Partly sunny.
86° 78°	87° 78°	87° 77°	89° 79°	89° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:50 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers are observed this morning across the Marianas. The latest buoy observations show seas of 3 to 5 feet with a wave period of 7 seconds. The water temperature at Tanapag is 86 degrees, and it`s 85 degrees at Ritidian and Ipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° /77°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:31 AM	1:13 PM
Saturday	-	1:12 AM	2:09 PM
Sunday	-	1:56 AM	3:10 PM
Monday	-	2:47 AM	4:15 PM
Tuesday	-	3:45 AM	5:23 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	43° / 21°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	79° / 64°
London	Showers	55° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 50°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Rain	73° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 72°
New York	Partly Cloudy	50° / 34°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	43° / 36°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	54° / 30°
Rome	Sunny	57° / 41°
Salem	Cloudy	52° / 39°
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 45°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	39° / 19°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	48° / 33°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:58 AM	High Tide	2.08
8:59 AM	Low Tide	0.70
2:50 PM	High Tide	1.59
8:19 PM	Low Tide	1.01

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Apple to add 'lockdown' safeguard on iPhones, iPads, Macs

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) —Apple said it will roll out a "lockdown" option for iPhones, iPads and Mac computers intended to protect against spyware unleashed by state-sponsored hackers — although enabling that protection will also make these devices less useful. The safeguard announced Wednesday is a tacit acknowledgement that not even Apple — the world's most valuable company — has been able to adequately shield the iPhone and its other products against intrusions from state-backed hackers and commercial spyware. Governments have used these tools to violate the privacy of journalists, political dissidents and human rights activists. The new feature, called "lockdown mode," will initially be offered as a test version so that security researchers can help Apple identify any bugs or weaknesses. Apple usually releases its major updates to its device operating systems in late September.

Trump property appraiser held in contempt in NY civil probe

NEW YORK (AP)—A company that has performed appraisals on some of Donald Trump's most prized properties has been held in contempt of court for missing a deadline to turn over documents in the New York attorney general's civil investigation into the former president's business practices.Manhattan Judge Arthur Engoron said late Tuesday that real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield had shown a "willful failure" to comply with Attorney General Letitia James' subpoenas, which sought records on Trump properties including a suburban Seven Springs Estate, Wall Street office building, Chicago skyscraper and Los Angeles golf course. Engoron ordered Cushman & Wakefield to pay a fine of $10,000 per day, beginning Thursday, for each day that it fails to fully comply with James' subpoenas. The same judge recently lifted a contempt order for Trump after a two-month legal fight over his slow response to a subpoena for documents in James' probe. Engoron, in a written order posted to the court docket Wednesday morning, appeared incensed that Cushman & Wakefield had asked for him for more time after missing a June 27 deadline that he'd set for the company to turn over subpoenaed documents.

Fed: Sharply higher rates may be needed to quell inflation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve officials were concerned at their meeting last month that consumers were increasingly anticipating higher inflation, and they signaled that much higher interest rates could be needed to restrain it. The policymakers also acknowledged, in minutes from their June 14-15 meeting released Wednesday, that their rate hikes could weaken the economy. But they suggested that such steps were necessary to slow price increases back to the Fed's 2% annual target.The officials agreed that the central bank needed to raise its benchmark interest rate to "restrictive" levels that would slow the economy's growth and "recognized that an even more restrictive stance could be appropriate" if inflation persisted. After last month's meeting, the Fed raised its key rate by three-quarters of a point to a range of 1.5% to 1.75%—the biggest single increase in nearly three decades—and signaled that further large hikes would likely be needed.

Biden plans to nominate Denver airport CEO to head the FAA

The White House said Wednesday that President Joe Biden plans to nominate Phillip Washington, the CEO of Denver International Airport, to lead the Federal Aviation Administration. Washington is well known to Biden administration figures. In late 2020, he served on Biden's transition, leading a team that advised the incoming administration on transportation policy.The FAA is currently led by acting chief, Billy Nolen, after former pilot and Delta Air Lines executive Stephen Dickson stepped down March 31.The FAA has come under criticism for its approval of the Boeing 737 Max jetliner, which was later involved in two deadly crashes, and its slow reaction to fears that new wireless networks could interfere with critical equipment on planes.This summer, airlines have accused the FAA of causing many flights to be delayed or canceled, partly because of a shortage of air traffic controllers, a claim disputed by administration officials. Washington has a limited resume in aviation. He has been the top executive at the Denver airport only since last July.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB22-CHCC/FACILITY-021

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 25TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) UNIT PICK UP TRUCK

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS INVITATION FOR BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MULTI YEAR FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY 2022, FY 2023, AND FY 2024 PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide multi-year financial and compliance audit for FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC 40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning ***July 01, 2022***, upon a non-refundable payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, certified check, or credit card to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than ***4:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, August 01, 2022***. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date _____

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GIL BLAS CONDOMINIUM OWNERS ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, v. **ACE KOKU INC., and T.R.C., LTD,** Defendants.

Civil Action Case No. 21-0313

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO ACE KOKU INC.:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff's attorney, Seman Law Offices, LLC, whose physical address is JET Realty Building, Suite 204, Gualo Rai, Saipan and whose mailing address is P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated: June 16, 2022

By: /s/
D. Clerk of the Superior Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GIL BLAS CONDOMINIUM OWNERS ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, v. **ACE KOKU INC., and T.R.C., LTD,** Defendants.

Civil Action Case No. 21-0313

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO T.R.C., LTD.:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff's attorney, Seman Law Offices, LLC, whose physical address is JET Realty Building, Suite 204, Gualo Rai, Saipan and whose mailing address is P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated: June 16, 2022

By: /s/
D. Clerk of the Superior Court

MARK SCOGGINS
SCOGGINS LAW OFFICE, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Marianas Insurance Company, Ltd Plaintiff, -vs- DAVE PICENTE and YAPING TAO, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0058

ORDER AFTER HEARING

This matter, on appeal to the Superior Court from Small Claims Court Case No. 20-0105, came for a status conference on June 15, 2022. Present was Mark Scoggins as Counsel for Marianas Insurance. Neither Defendant had been served with notice of the hearing and neither appeared.

FOR GOOD CAUSE the COURT hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. The parties shall prepare briefs on the topic of the Small Claims Court's jurisdiction over cases involving insurance subrogation claims. In addition to the parties' other arguments, the parties shall provide briefing on jurisdictions in which subrogation cases are heard in small claims courts, and specifically the practice in California.

2. All parties shall submit their briefs on or before July 8, 2022.

3. This order shall be published in a newspaper on July 1, 6 and 8, 2022.

4. A hearing to consider the parties' arguments shall be held on July 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ HON. ROBERTO C. NARAJA
Presiding Judge

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-034

PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POWER GENERATION PLANT SYSTEMS ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant Systems on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-034, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant Systems on the island of Tinian" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 28, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 8, 2022,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, at email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Nation

Police: Parade shooting suspect contemplated 2nd shooting

AP
Area residents visit a memorial to the seven people who lost their lives in the Highland Park, Ill., Fourth of July mass shooting, Wednesday, July 6, 2022, in Highland Park.

HIGHLAND PARK, Ill. (AP) — The man charged with killing seven people at an Independence Day parade confessed to police that he unleashed a hail of bullets from a rooftop in suburban Chicago and then fled to the Madison, Wisconsin, area, where he contemplated shooting up an event there, authorities said Wednesday.

The suspect turned back to Illinois, where he was later arrested, after deciding he was not prepared to pull off another attack in Wisconsin, Lake County Major Crime Task Force spokesman Christopher Covelli said at a news conference following a hearing where the 21-year-old man was denied bond.

The parade shooting left another American community reeling — this time affluent Highland Park, home to about 30,000 people near the Lake Michigan shore. More than two dozen people were wounded, some critically, and hundreds of marchers, parents and children fled in a panic.

Covelli said it did not appear that the suspect had planned another attack in Wisconsin, but fled there, saw another Independence Day celebration and "seriously contemplated" firing on it. The assailant had ditched the semi-automatic rifle he used in Illinois, but he had another, similar rifle and about 60 more rounds with him, according to Covelli.

Police later found his phone in Middleton, Wisconsin, which is about 135 miles (217 kilometers) from Highland Park.

For hours before his arrest, police warned that the gunman was still at large and that he should be considered armed and dangerous. Several nearby cities canceled events including parades and fireworks. Most festivities in and around Wisconsin's capital city went ahead.

Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes told a news conference Wednesday that the FBI urged the department on Monday evening to prepare its SWAT team because investigators believed the gunman could be in the area. Barnes said he was not warned at the time that the shooter was considering carrying out further attacks.

Lake County Assistant State's Attorney Ben Dillon said in court that the gunman climbed up the fire escape of a building above the Highland Park parade, "looked down his sights, aimed" and fired at people across the street. He left the shells of 83 bullets and three ammunition magazines on the rooftop. He initially evaded capture by disguising himself as a woman and blending into the fleeing crowd, according to police.

Some of the wounded remained hospitalized in critical condition, Covelli said, and the death toll could still rise. Already, the deaths from the shooting have left a 2-year-old boy without parents, families mourning the loss of beloved grandparents and a synagogue grieving the death of a congregant who for decades had also worked on the staff.

Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart said he planned to bring attempted murder and aggravated battery charges for each individual who was hurt.

"There will be many, many more charges coming," he said at a news conference, estimating that those charges would be announced later this month.

Deadly July 4 parade: Shots, then a frantic rush to escape

HIGHLAND PARK, Ill. (AP) — David Shapiro and his wife brought their two young kids to enjoy the Independence Day parade in their hometown north of Chicago, snagging a spot in front of a boutique winery.

The children's parade in downtown Highland Park had already gone by, with about 50 school-age children riding bikes, scooters and tricycles. The musicians of the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, complete with full drum set and brass section, were starting to play atop a flatbed trailer.

Then came the sound that Shapiro knew did not fit: pop pop pop pop pop.

Before he knew what was happening, parade-goers from farther down the route began running toward the 47-year-old and his family, screaming about someone with a gun.

"It was chaos," Shapiro recalled. "People didn't know right away where the gunfire was coming from, whether the gunman was in front or behind you chasing you."

For many people, the mass shooting that killed at least seven people and injured more than 30 others adds to the fear that any place, any event in the U.S. can turn dangerous or deadly, even though most gun violence is personal. Highland Park is one of the country's safest towns, and July 4th parades among the most American of celebrations. Even before Monday's killings, some people already were on edge, questioning whether to venture into large gatherings, looking over their shoulders during even the most run-of-the-mill activities, from grocery shopping to going to school or catching a movie.

But as the shots rang out in Highland Park on Monday, all most people at the July 4 parade knew at first was confusion, then terror as they searched for a safe place to hide or any way to escape.

■■■

The atmosphere along the short but crowded parade route was exuberant as the kids stepped along around 9:40 a.m., said Vivian Visconti, a 19-year-old Highland Park Park District counselor who helped organize and direct the children's parade

Parents and other attendees smiled and waved at that first group, while Visconti instructed younger kids to keep moving if they slowed or momentarily veered off the designated route.

"It was fun, cheerful, and hot," she recalled about passing through Central Avenue business district, lined with tony boutiques, cafes and restaurants. On either side of the street, attendees sat on blankets and lawn tables, some snacking on potato chips or cookies as they watched.

It took the children on the cycles no more than 20 minutes to traverse the entire parade route, which ended at the bottom of a hill near a park, where a bouncy house was set up for youngsters to play in after they completed the trek.

"We may have been one of the only groups who finished the parade route," Visconti said.

One of the reasons the smaller kids went first was so they could run back up the hill and watch the rest of the parade.

ACROSS THE NATION

Detroit officer, gun-wielding suspect dead after shooting

DETROIT (AP) — A Detroit police officer and a man wielding an assault-style weapon were fatally shot on the city's west side Wednesday night, Detroit police Chief James White said. White said the officer and his partner responded about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday to a call of a man firing a weapon. He said when the officers arrived, they were met by the suspect who was armed with an assault-style weapon and firing in their direction. White said one officer was struck and his partner returned fire, fatally striking the suspect. The struck officer was later pronounced dead at a hospital. "With a heavy heart... I have to inform our department and our community that we lost one of our heroes today," White told reporters outside the hospital. "A very sad and tragic event..." The officer killed was not immediately identified but White said he was a five-year veteran with the department and "comes from a long history of law enforcement officers." White said the officer's father recently retired from the department.

Ex-cop Chauvin to get federal sentence for Floyd's killing

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Derek Chauvin will learn his sentence Thursday for violating George Floyd's civil rights, with a deal in place that would extend the former Minneapolis police officer's time behind bars while shifting him to possibly more favorable conditions in a federal prison. Chauvin agreed to a sentence of 20 to 25 years in his December plea to a federal charge in Floyd's killing. U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson will make the final decision, with prosecutors seeking the full 25 on the grounds that Chauvin's actions were cold-blooded and needless. The defense has asked for 20 years, saying Chauvin accepts responsibility for what he did, and has already gotten a 22 1/2-year prison sentence from a state court for murdering Floyd. Attorney Eric Nelson wrote that Chauvin's "remorse will be made apparent to this Court," suggesting Chauvin is likely to speak at Thursday's hearing. Former U.S. Attorney Tom Heffelfinger said a judge could take such a statement into consideration during sentencing. "This is his opportunity to say, 'I'm sorry, I didn't mean to, I didn't think, or whatever,'" Heffelfinger said. "In federal court it's very much to the inmate's advantage to be remorseful, and to demonstrate remorse, even more than at a state sentencing."

Yellowstone flooding reveals forecast flaws as climate warms

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The Yellowstone National Park area's weather forecast the morning of June 12 seemed fairly tame: warmer temperatures and rain showers would accelerate mountain snow melt and could produce "minor flooding." A National Weather Service bulletin recommended moving livestock from low-lying areas but made no mention of danger to people. By nightfall, after several inches of rain fell on a deep spring snowpack, there were record-shattering floods. Torrents of water poured off the mountains. Swollen rivers carrying boulders and trees smashed through Montana towns over the next several days. The flooding swept away houses, wiped out bridges and forced the evacuation of more than 10,000 tourists, park employees and residents near the park. As a cleanup expected to last months grinds on, climate experts and meteorologists say the gap between the destruction and what was forecast underscores a troublesome aspect of climate change: Models used to predict storm impacts do not always keep up with increasingly devastating rainstorms, hurricanes, heat waves and other events.

Asia

Marcos plays balancing act in meeting with China's FM

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—New Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. met with China's top diplomat Wednesday to take up long-simmering disputes in the South China Sea, as he waded into foreign policy dilemmas that include the U.S.-China rivalry in the region.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, wearing a native Filipino formal shirt, met his counterpart for talks at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila and later met Marcos Jr. at the presidential palace.

No detailed statement about the talks was immediately released by Philippine officials. Chinese officials have frowned on what they perceive as undue media focus on the territorial conflicts that put Beijing in a bad light.

In Beijing, a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement quoted Wang as telling National Security Adviser Clarita Carlos in Manila that Marcos Jr.'s election "has turned a new page in China-Philippines relations, and the two peoples are full of expectations for the development of bilateral relations." The statement did not say if the territorial disputes were taken up.

"Our only choice is to be friendly, friendly, and friendly again," Wang said.

Wang arrived in Manila Tuesday night as part of a Southeast Asian swing that brought him earlier to Myanmar and Thailand. He will also visit Malaysia and Indonesia, where he will attend a meeting of G-20 foreign ministers in Bali.

Wang's visit ushers Marcos Jr. early to touchy foreign diplomacy issues that often had prompted his predecessors to carry out delicate balancing acts. Marcos Jr. was sworn into office last week after a landslide electoral victory in May.

He said in a televised news conference Tuesday that he would discuss with Wang possible ways to resolve Manila's disputes with Beijing in the contested South China Sea but would also propose to broaden ties further.

"China and the Philippines should not only be discussing the West Philippine Sea," Marcos said, using the Philippine name for the disputed waters. "Let's do other things too. In that way, it will normalize our relationship."

"We have many proposals to them in the sense that, as I said, we would like for us to increase the scope," he said, and mentioned possible expansion of cultural, educational and military exchanges.

He did not outline how he would handle the territorial issues but has indicated he would generally follow the approach of his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, who focused on intensifying engagements with China.

After taking office in 2016, Duterte put the disputes on the backburner and tried to nurture cozier relations with China. He disregarded calls to aggressively demand that Beijing comply with a landmark 2016 ruling by a U.N.-backed arbitration tribunal that invalidated China's extensive claims in the South China Sea on historical grounds. The tribunal also ruled that China's massive land reclamations and actions against Filipino fishermen at a disputed shoal violated the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

China refused to take part in the arbitration, which was initiated by Duterte's predecessor, the late Benigno Aquino III. Beijing continues to defy the ruling, which was welcomed by the U.S. and other Western governments that have challenged China's flexing of muscles.

Duterte's stance was criticized by nationalists and activists as a "sellout," which they said squandered the Philippines' arbitration victory.

"If you're talking about President Duterte's policy of engagement with China, that's really our only option," Marcos Jr. told DZRH radio network in January.

In this photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., right, greets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi as the arrives for a courtesy call at the Malacanang Presidential Palace in Manila, Philippines on Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

MALACANANG PRESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS DIVISION VIA AP

S. Korean group floats balloons toward North amid animosities

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korea activist said Thursday he launched more huge balloons carrying COVID-19 relief items toward North Korea, days after the North vowed to sternly deal with such activities and made a highly questionable claim they were a source of the virus.

South Korean experts doubt North Korea's moves to blame South Korean balloons and say the intent might be to incite anti-South Korea sentiments and ease public complaints over its handling of the outbreak. The coronavirus is spread by people in close contact who inhale airborne droplets, and the expert consensus is that the spread of the virus from surfaces is virtually impossible.

Park Sang-hak, a North Korean defector-turned-activist, said his group floated 20 balloons carrying 20,000 masks and tens of thousands of vitamin C and fever-reducing tablets from a South Korean border town on Wednesday. He said he sent similar aid items by balloon across the inter-Korean border twice last month.

Park previously flew balloons to distribute anti-North Korea propaganda leaflets, U.S. one-dollar bills and USB sticks containing information about the outside world. But he said he'll now focus on sending medical relief items because North Koreans urgently need them.

Since North Korea in May admitted to an omicron outbreak of the virus, its state media said about 4.8 million North Koreans have developed fevers but only 74 have died. Experts doubt the figures are accurate and speculate its disclosure of an extremely low death count is tooled to prevent political damage to leader Kim Jong Un.

Singapore hangs 2 drug traffickers despite opposition

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Two drug traffickers were hanged in Singapore on Thursday, bringing the number of executions this year in the city-state to four despite growing calls to abolish its death penalty.

Activists said the prison department handed the belongings and death certificates for Malaysian national Kalwant Singh and Singaporean Norasharee Gous to their families after their execution Thursday morning.

Amnesty International said Singapore is one of just four countries known to have executed people for drug-related offences in recent years, going against a global trend toward abolishing the death penalty.

"Singapore has once again executed people convicted of drug-related offenses in violation of international law, callously disregarding public outcry," said Emerlynne Gill, Amnesty International's deputy regional director for research.

"The death penalty is never the solution and we oppose it unconditionally. There is no evidence that it acts as a unique deterrent to crime," Gill said in a statement.

Kalwant, who was convicted in 2016 of bringing heroin into Singapore, was the second Malaysian to be executed in less than three months. In late April, the hanging of another Malaysian sparked an international outcry because he was believed to be mentally disabled.

Kalwant filed a last-minute appeal on the eve of his execution on grounds that he was a mere courier and that he had cooperated with police, but it was rejected by Singapore's top court, activists said.

Critics say that Singapore's death penalty has mostly snared low-level mules and done little to stop drug traffickers and organized syndicates. But Singapore's government defends it as necessary to protect its citizens.

"We urge the Singaporean authorities to immediately stop this latest wave of hangings and impose a moratorium on executions as a step towards ending this shameful and inhuman punishment," Amnesty said.

Four others drug traffickers, including two more Malaysians, were scheduled to be hanged earlier but their executions were delayed pending legal challenges.

Flood threat moves north as Sydney area emergency eases

SYDNEY (AP)—Floodwaters were receding in Sydney and its surrounding area Thursday as heavy rain threatened to inundate towns north of Australia's largest city.

Evacuation orders and official warnings to prepare to abandon homes were given to 60,000 people by Thursday, down from 85,000 on Wednesday, New South Wales state Premier Dominic Perrottet said.

But towns including Maitland and Singleton in the Hunter Valley, north of Sydney, were still threatened by inundation, Perrottet said.

Around 50 rescues were made in the past 24 hours, several of which involved people stranded in cars in floodwaters, he said.

Emergency Services Minister Steph Cooke said record-breaking rain that began around Sydney on Friday last week was easing.

"It is very pleasing to see that the weather situation is starting to ease after almost a week of relentless rain," she said.

The weather system that had brought heavy rain to a vast swath of New South Wales was moving further from the coast out to sea north of Sydney, Bureau of Meteorology manager Diana Eadie said.

Bulga, a town about 180 kilometers (110 miles) north of Sydney by road, experienced its highest flood level since 1952, she said.

Taree, some 320 kilometers (200 miles) north of Sydney by road, was drenched by 305 millimeters (12 inches) of rain overnight — almost a third of the town's annual rainfall average, Eadie said.

World

Russia pounds rebel-claimed region, Ukraine pushes back

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine (AP)—Russia redoubled its push for Ukraine's eastern Donbas region Wednesday, with the Ukrainian military claiming to have repelled some advances and both sides reporting casualties.

The Ukrainian armed forces General Staff said troops stopped enemy units advancing towards Sloviansk, a city in Donetsk, one of two provinces in the Donbas whose capture is among Moscow's main goals. It also claimed to have repelled Russian attacks on a town and village north of Ukraine's second city, Kharkiv, just miles (kilometers) from the Russian border.

The Ukrainian presidential office said most civilian casualties were in Donetsk province, where Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said two people died in the city of Avdiivka; the cities of Sloviansk, Krasnohorivka and Kurakhove each reported one civilian killed.

"Every crime will be punished," he wrote on social media.

Kyrylenko urged the province's more than 350,000 remaining residents to flee late Tuesday, saying that evacuating Donetsk was necessary to save lives and allow the Ukrainian army to put up a better defense against the Russian advance.

Donetsk is part of the Donbas, a mostly Russian-speaking industrial area where Ukraine's most experienced soldiers are concentrated.

AP

Ukrainian serviceman looks on National Pedagogic university destroyed by a Russian attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

Pro-Russian separatists have fought Ukrainian forces and controlled much of the Donbas for eight years.

Before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk, the two self-proclaimed separatist republics. Putin on Monday declared the complete seizure of Luhansk, after Ukrainian troops withdrew from the last city under their control in the province.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai denied Wednesday that the Russians had completely captured the province. Heavy fighting continued in villages around Lysychansk, the city Ukrainians soldiers withdrew from and which Russian troops took Sunday, he said.

"The Russians have paid a high price, but the Luhansk region is not fully captured by the Russian army," Haidai said. "Some settlements have been overrun by each side several times."

He accused Russian forces of scorched earth tactics, "burning down and destroying everything on their way."

The Russian military pounded Luhansk for weeks from the air and ground, causing mass destruction and large civilian casualties. When Russian troops enter villages and cities, they are largely empty. From pre-war populations each of around 100,000, only up to 15,000 residents remain in Lysychansk and some 8,000 in the nearby city of Sievierodonetsk, which Russian and separatist fighters seized last month, Haidai said.

Ukrainian President Volodymr Zelenskky, in his nightly video address Wednesday, said that of all the battles in his country, "the most brutal confrontation" is raging in the Donbas.

The Associated Press on Wednesday saw the bloody aftermath of one attack in the rebel-held Donetsk town of Makiivka and spoke to eyewitnesses who said a Soviet-era missile struck a playground outside a residential home. Local separatists blamed the attack on Ukrainian forces.

Blood stained the seat of a swing and pooled on the ground below. Russian media cited the separatists as saying two children were killed and three children and two adults were wounded.

"The boy was lying on the swings like this and I saw he had blood coming out from this side," said resident Svetlana Lyga. "I did not come close … I simply couldn't. The girl was taken by the ambulance. She was alive at that moment."

North of Donetsk, Russian forces hit Kharkiv with missile strikes overnight. Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said Wednesday on Telegram that one person was killed and three, including a toddler, were injured. First responders crunched through the debris of a Kharkiv university, where Zelenskyy said the main building, lecture halls, museum and library were destroyed.

Inflation pushed 71M people into poverty since Ukraine war

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A staggering 71 million more people around the world are experiencing poverty as a result of soaring food and energy prices that climbed in the weeks following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the United Nations Development Program said in a report Thursday.

The UNDP estimates that 51.6 million more people fell into poverty in the first three months after the war, living off $1.90 a day or less. This pushed the total number globally at this threshold to 9% of the world's population. An additional 20 million people slipped to the poverty line of $3.20 a day.

In low-income countries, families spend 42% of their household incomes on food but as Western nations moved to sanction Russia, the price fuel and staple food items like wheat, sugar and cooking oil soared. Ukraine's blocked ports and its inability to export grains to low-income countries further drove up prices, pushing tens of millions quickly into poverty.

"The cost of living impact is almost without precedent in a generation... and that is why it is so serious," UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said at the launch of the report.

The speed at which this many people experienced poverty outpaced the economic pain felt at the peak of the pandemic. The UNDP noted that 125 million people experienced poverty over about 18 months during the pandemic's lockdowns and closures, compared with more than 71 million in just three months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February.

UN: 2.3 billion people severely or moderately hungry in 2021

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The spike in food, fuel and fertilizer prices sparked by the war in Ukraine is threatening to push countries around the world into famine, bringing "global destabilization, starvation and mass migration on an unprecedented scale," a top U.N. official warned Wednesday.

David Beasley, head of the U.N. World Food Program, said its latest analysis shows that "a record 345 million acutely hungry people are marching to the brink of starvation"—a 25% increase from 276 million at the start of 2022 before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. The number stood at 135 million before the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

"There's a real danger it will climb even higher in the months ahead," he said. "Even more worrying is that when this group is broken down, a staggering 50 million people in 45 countries are just one step away from famine."

Beasley spoke at a high-level U.N. meeting for the release of the latest report on global hunger by the World Food Program and four other U.N. agencies that paints a grim picture.

The report, "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World," says world hunger rose in 2021, with around 2.3 billion people facing moderate or severe difficulty obtaining enough to eat. The number facing severe food insecurity increased to about 924 million.

The prevalence of "undernourishment"—when food consumption is insufficient to maintain an active and healthy life—is used to measure hunger, and it continued to rise in 2021. The report estimates that between 702 million and 828 million people faced hunger last year.

Beasley said in live virtual comments that the impact of the conflict in Ukraine, "the bread basket of the world," on global food availability and food security "means the number of chronically hungry people in the world is likely already much higher than the 828 million."

Children among 50 held 100 days after Nigeria train attack

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—At least five children are among the 50 people still held by gunmen who attacked a passenger train near Nigeria's capital, their families said Wednesday as they held a protest demanding more action from authorities to rescue the hostages.

As the families protested the 100 days their relatives have been held captive after the attack in the northwest Kaduna state, the Nigeria police dismissed allegations that "not enough" is being done to rescue the victims who are among the thousands either abducted or killed in the last year as the West African nation faces continued armed violence.

Gunmen in late March attacked the train with explosives and gunfire, killing seven people and abducting dozens of others.

Although no arrest has been made in connection with the attack, police are "still gathering intelligence from locals" to find and rescue the hostages, Kaduna police spokesperson Mohammed Jalige told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, which authorities blamed on armed groups who have frequently targeted remote communities in northwest Nigeria with the aid of Islamic extremist rebels.

More than 100 passengers from the train were missing initially, but some were later freed by the kidnappers in conditions not made public. In June, the Nigerian presidency said the Abuja train attackers "made a demand for the release of their own children."

As the families of the hostages protested in Kaduna, asking authorities to "work faster and do more," Abdul-Fatai Jimoh, chairman of the families' union, said they only have one key demand: "We want them (the government) to work faster on this because the longer our people stay in the bush, the more they are exposed to a lot of danger.

"We want them to hasten the process of negotiation with the abductors of our family members so they can come out in the shortest time possible," Jimoh told The Associated Press.

Off The Wall

Amazon's Alexa could soon mimic voice of dead relatives

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JUNE 23, 2022 GMT

Amazon's Alexa might soon replicate the voice of family members-even if they're dead.

The capability, unveiled at Amazon's Re:Mars conference in Las Vegas, is in development and would allow the virtual assistant to mimic the voice of a specific person based on a less than a minute of provided recording.

Rohit Prasad, senior vice president and head scientist for Alexa, said at the event Wednesday that the desire behind the feature was to build greater trust in the interactions users have with Alexa by putting more "human attributes of empathy and affect."

"These attributes have become even more important during the ongoing pandemic when so many of us have lost ones that we love," Prasad said. "While AI can't eliminate that pain of loss, it can definitely make their memories last."

In a video played by Amazon at the event, a young child asks "Alexa, can Grandma finish reading me the Wizard of Oz?" Alexa then acknowledges the request, and switches to another voice mimicking the child's grandmother. The voice assistant then continues to read the book in that same voice.

AP

Amazon Echo and Echo Plus devices, behind, sit near illuminated Echo Button devices during an event by the company in Seattle on Sept. 27, 2017.

To create the feature, Prasad said the company had to learn how to make a "high-quality voice" with a shorter recording, opposed to hours of recording in a studio. Amazon did not provide further details about the feature, which is bound to spark more privacy concerns and ethical questions about consent.

Amazon's push comes as competitor Microsoft earlier this week said it was scaling back its synthetic voice offerings and setting stricter guidelines to "ensure the active participation of the speaker" whose voice is recreated. Microsoft said Tuesday it is limiting which customers get to use the service--while also continuing to highlight acceptable uses such as an interactive Bugs Bunny character at AT&T stores.

"This technology has exciting potential in education, accessibility, and entertainment, and yet it is also easy to imagine how it could be used to inappropriately impersonate speakers and deceive listeners," said a blog post from Natasha Crampton, who heads Microsoft's AI ethics division.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Ohio State gets approval to trademark 'The' for merchandise

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Ohio State University has won its fight to trademark the word "The." The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office approved the university's request Tuesday. The school says it allows Ohio State to control use of "The" on branded products associated with and sold through athletics and collegiate channels, such as T-shirts, baseball caps and hats. "THE has been a rallying cry in the Ohio State community for many years, and Buckeye fans who purchase official Ohio State gear support student scholarships, libraries and other university initiatives," said Ben Johnson, the university's senior director of media and public relations. He noted the university's licensing and trademark program generates over $12.5 million a year in revenue, which helps fund student scholarships and university programs. Ohio State started pursuing a trademark in August 2019 after fashion retailer Marc Jacobs had filed an application for the word a few months earlier. The company and the university reached a deal in August 2021 that allows both parties to use the branding. The patent office rejected Ohio State's initial application, finding the trademark appeared to be used for "merely decorative manner" and as an "ornamental feature" that didn't appear to function as a trademark that would differentiate the items from others.

Poisonous bite leads German police to farm with 110 snakes

BERLIN (AP)—Police in Germany said Sunday they discovered more than 110 dangerous snakes on a farm after a woman who lived there sought medical treatment for a poisonous bite. The 35-year-old woman drove to a hospital in Salzgitter, near Hannover, early Sunday and told doctors there that one of her rattlesnakes bit her finger. While the woman's condition deteriorated and authorities hastily ordered an antidote from a specialist institute in Hamburg, police visited the farm in central Germany and found dozens of snakes. In a statement, police said specialists determined the snake collection included both constrictors and poisonous varieties, which weren't housed in appropriate terrariums. The reptiles were all impounded.

Florida team hauls in 18-foot, 215-pound Burmese python

NAPLES, Fla. (AP)—A team of biologists recently hauled in the heaviest Burmese python ever captured in Florida, officials said.

The female python weighed in at 215 pounds (98 kilograms), was nearly 18 feet long (5 meters) and had 122 developing eggs, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida said in a news release.

The team used radio transmitters transplanted in male "scout" snakes to study python movements, breeding behaviors and habitat use, said Ian Bartoszek, wildlife biologist and environmental science project manager for the conservancy's program.

"How do you find the needle in the haystack? You could use a magnet, and in a similar way our male scout snakes are attracted to the biggest females around," Bartoszek said.

The team used a scout snake named Dionysus—or Dion for short—in an area of the western Everglades.

"We knew he was there for a reason, and the team found him with the largest female we have seen to date."

Biologist Ian Easterling and intern Kyle Findley helped capture the female snake and haul it through the woods to the field truck.

A necropsy also found hoof cores in the snake's digest system, meaning that an adult white-tailed deer was its last meal.

National Geographic documented the discovery, highlighting the continued impact of the invasive pythons, which are known for rapid reproduction and depletion of surrounding native wildlife.

NASA: Give us back our moon dust and cockroaches

BOSTON (AP)—NASA wants its moon dust and cockroaches back.

The space agency has asked Boston-based RR Auction to halt the sale of moon dust collected during the 1969 Apollo 11 mission that had subsequently been fed to cockroaches during an experiment to determine if the lunar rock contained any sort of pathogen that posed a threat to terrestrial life.

The material, a NASA lawyer said in a letter to the auctioneer, still belongs to the federal government.

The material from the experiment, including a vial with about 40 milligrams of moon dust and three cockroach carcasses, was expected to sell for at least $400,000, but has been pulled from the auction block, RR said Thursday.

"All Apollo samples, as stipulated in this collection of items, belong to NASA and no person, university, or other entity has ever been given permission to keep them after analysis, destruction, or other use for any purpose, especially for sale or individual display," said NASA's letter dated June 15.

It went on: "We are requesting that you no longer facilitate the sale of any and all items containing the Apollo 11 Lunar Soil Experiment (the cockroaches, slides, and post-destructive testing specimen) by immediately stopping the bidding process," NASA wrote.

World's biggest bacterium found in Caribbean mangrove swamp

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists have discovered the world's largest bacterium in a Caribbean mangrove swamp.

Most bacteria are microscopic, but this one is so big it can be seen with the naked eye.

The thin white filament, approximately the size of a human eyelash, is "by far the largest bacterium known to date," said Jean-Marie Volland, a marine biologist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and co-author of a paper announcing the discovery Thursday in the journal Science.

Olivier Gros, a co-author and biologist at the University of the French West Indies and Guiana, found the first example of this bacterium—named Thiomargarita magnifica, or "magnificent sulfur pearl"—clinging to sunken mangrove leaves in the archipelago of Guadeloupe in 2009.

But he didn't immediately know it was a bacterium because of its surprisingly large size—these bacteria, on average, reach a length of a third of an inch (0.9 centimeters). Only later genetic analysis revealed the organism to be a single bacterial cell.

"It's an amazing discovery," said Petra Levin, a microbiologist at Washington University in St Louis, who was not involved in the study. "It opens up the question of how many of these giant bacteria are out there—and reminds us we should never, ever underestimate bacteria."

Gros also found the bacterium attached to oyster shells, rocks and glass bottles in the swamp.

Science & Technology

How technology has made your car 'a candy store of distraction'

By RUSS MITCHELL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

DREAMSTIME/TNS

After decades of falling fatality rates, U.S. roads have become markedly more dangerous in recent years. In 2021, motor vehicle crashes killed nearly 43,000 people. That's up from about 33,000 in 2012, and a 16-year high.

In the late 1980s, the U.S. Army turned to outside experts to study how pilots of Apache attack helicopters were responding to the torrent of information streaming into the cockpit on digital screens and analog displays. The verdict: not well.

The cognitive overload caused by all that information was degrading performance and raising the risk of crashes, the researchers determined. Pilots were forced to do too many things at once, with too many bells and whistles demanding their attention. Over the next decade, the Army overhauled its Apache fleet, redesigning cockpits to help operators maintain focus.

Cognitive psychologist David Strayer was among those called in to help the Army with its Apache problem. Since then, he has watched as civilian cars and trucks have filled up to an even greater extent with the same sorts of digital interfaces that trained pilots with honed reflexes found so overwhelming—touch screens, interactive maps, nested menus, not to mention ubiquitous smartphones. In his lab at the University of Utah, he's been documenting the deadly consequences.

"We are instrumenting the car in a way that is overloading the driver just like we were overloading the helicopter pilots," said Strayer, director of the university's Center for the Prevention of Distracted Driving.

"Everything we know from pilots being overloaded we can apply to motor vehicles," Strayer said. But rather than apply it, makers of smartphones and automobiles largely have ignored the research, persistently adding popular but deadly diversions. "They've created a candy store of distraction. And we are killing people."

To be sure, new automotive technology also includes innovative safety features such as lane-departure warning and blind spot detection. Yet, despite these and other crash-prevention systems, the highway death count continues to rise.

After decades of falling fatality rates, U.S. roads have become markedly more dangerous in recent years. In 2021, motor vehicle crashes killed nearly 43,000 people. That's up from about 33,000 in 2012, and a 16-year high.

Theories about why range from bigger vehicles—mammoth SUVs and pickup trucks on steroids—to aggression caused by COVID-era trauma. But no one in the safety field doubts that distracted driving is a main ingredient.

Reported fatalities due to distracted driving have remained flat for the last 10 years, 3,000 to 4,000 a year. But there is good reason to consider those figures a major undercount, as they rely on people admitting they were distracted, or a police officer or someone else witnessing a driver with phone in hand before a crash.

"It's against people's self-interest to say, 'I was on the cellphone' or 'I was using the infotainment system'" after a crash, "because there can be serious consequences," said Cathy Chase, who heads Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety.

"I don't think we're getting an accurate picture of what's happening on the roads," she said.

Other measures point to a much higher toll. In early 2020, the National Safety Council said cellphones were involved in more than a quarter of crashes. A poll by Nationwide Insurance shows its agents believe 50% of all crashes involved distracted driving. And safety experts say the problem has only grown worse since the start of the pandemic.

Pretending that the toll is only a few thousand people a year makes it more difficult to change policies that could improve safety, Mark Rosekind said. He ran the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration during the Obama administration and is now chief safety innovation officer at driverless car company Zoox.

"People will use those low numbers as a way to minimize this, that it's not a big problem," he said.

Most people know distracted driving is bad—98% of those polled told Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety they are extremely or very concerned about it as a safety issue. But most do it anyway. Seventy percent of polled drivers said they use their cellphones while driving. That increased to 86% of people who use their cars for work. State Farm in April released survey statistics even more disturbing. More than half of respondents said they "always" or "often" read or send text messages while driving, 43% said they watched cellphone videos always or often while driving, and more than a third said they always or often drove while engaged in a video chat.

Elene Bratton's 5-year-old son Jamie died in a car crash back in 2002 caused by a driver distracted while using a cellphone. She thought the mounting deaths would lead to serious action by lawmakers and safety regulators but instead has watched the problem grow much worse. "We act like there's nothing to be done with car crashes like this, like we all have to deal with it," said Bratton, who runs a website, jamiesjoy.org, in part to raise money to help push policy changes.

How do the companies behind all those distracting screens and apps—the automakers and smartphone manufacturers—view their responsibility for the problem and their role in solving it?

It's hard to say. The Times asked the five top-selling carmakers in the U.S.—General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Stellantis and Honda—to provide an executive to speak about what they're doing to help prevent distracted driving. All declined, offering instead to make written public relations material available. Apple and Samsung, the two leading smartphone makers, also declined interview requests.

When companies do talk about distracted driving, they tend to frame it as a problem with cellphones. Their solution: Integrate the same functionality and more into dashboard interfaces and voice-recognition systems.

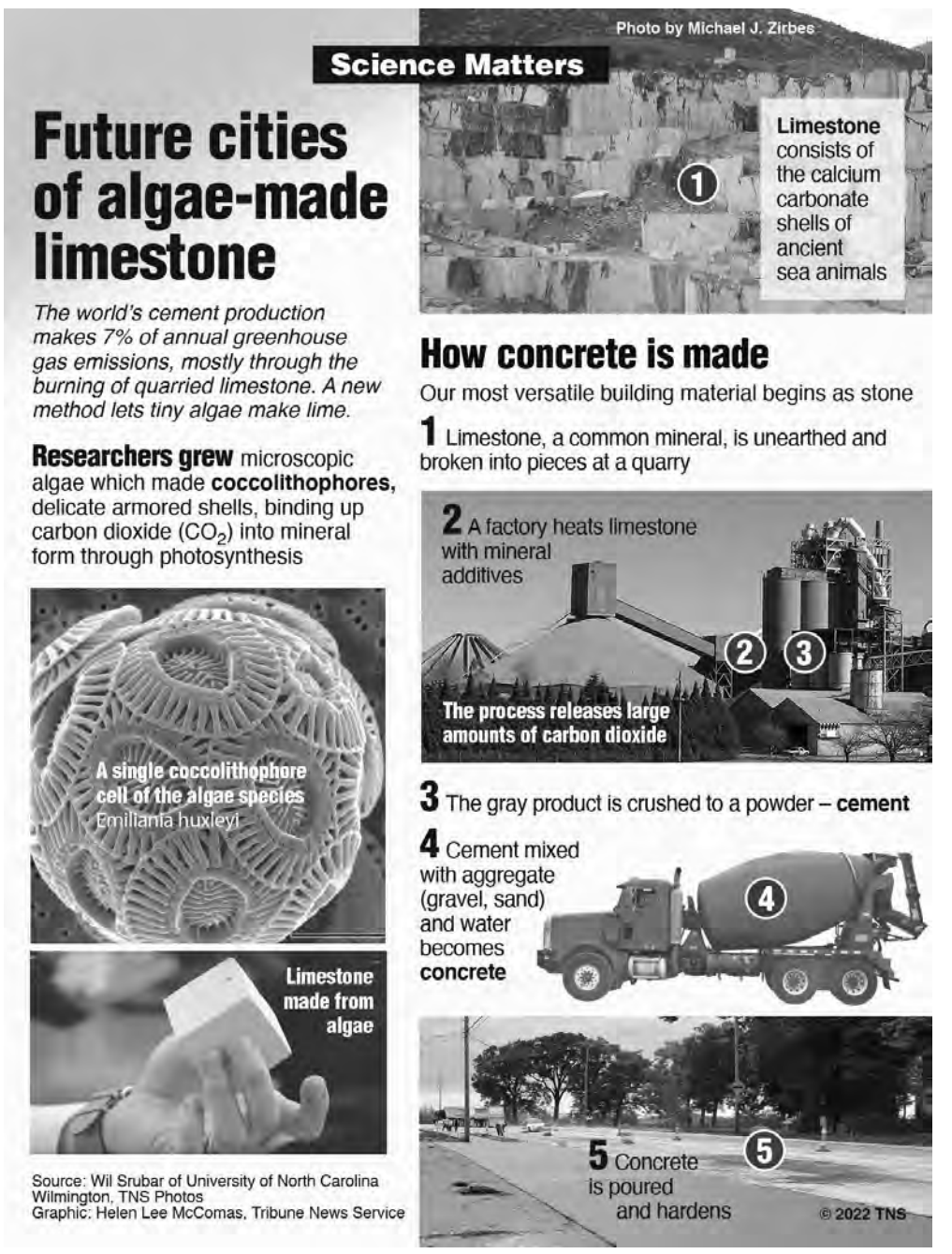
Apple executive Emily Schubert, in a flashy video internet presentation in June, announced major new features for the company's CarPlay infotainment system. Apple declined to make Schubert or any other executive available for an interview, but in an email a spokesperson called CarPlay "the smarter, safer way to use iPhone in the car." What makes it safer, and to what degree? No details were provided.

The company did note it provides Driving Focus mode on its phones, which, if engaged by the customer, keeps the phone silent and doesn't allow notifications to come through. A Nationwide Insurance poll showed 70% of respondents had never used such a feature.

A Honda spokesperson said by email that "the biggest thing we can do to reduce distraction is to reduce the likelihood of a driver looking at their mobile phone while driving" by putting more focus on infotainment systems, through which the company is making "an attempt to minimize distraction while satisfying the driver's ease of use and access to desired information."

Honda offered few details and declined an interview about the subject. The company did say it's working with researchers at Ohio State University on the infotainment interface. The professors involved declined to offer details as well, saying their work for Honda is proprietary.

One problem with relying on infotainment systems to improve safety is that they don't work very well. "Infotainment systems remain the most problematic area" for new car customers, auto market research firm J.D. Power wrote in its latest new-car quality report. Customers complain about frequent problems with connectivity, Bluetooth syncing, touch screens and built-in voice recognition.


Science Matters
Future cities of algae-made limestone
The world's cement production makes 7% of annual greenhouse gas emissions, mostly through the burning of quarried limestone. A new method lets tiny algae make lime.
Researchers grew microscopic algae which made coccolithophores, delicate armored shells, binding up carbon dioxide (CO_2) into mineral form through photosynthesis
A single coccolithophore cell of the algae species Emiliania huxleyi
Limestone made from algae
Photo by Michael J. Zirbes
Limestone consists of the calcium carbonate shells of ancient sea animals
How concrete is made
Our most versatile building material begins as stone
1 Limestone, a common mineral, is unearthed and broken into pieces at a quarry
2 A factory heats limestone with mineral additives
The process releases large amounts of carbon dioxide
3 The gray product is crushed to a powder – cement
4 Cement mixed with aggregate (gravel, sand) and water becomes concrete
5 Concrete is poured and hardens
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Source: Wil Srubar of University of North Carolina Wilmington, TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Jury finds man guilty of murdering rapper Nipsey Hussle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 32-year-old man who grew up on the same streets in the same gang as Nipsey Hussle was found guilty Wednesday of first-degree murder in the 2019 shooting of the Grammy-winning rapper, who rose above his circumstances to become an inspiration to the neighborhood where he was eventually gunned down.

The Los Angeles County jury also found Eric R. Holder Jr. guilty of two counts of attempted voluntary manslaughter for gunfire that hit other men at the scene. Prosecutors had sought two counts of attempted murder. Holder also was found guilty of two counts of assault with a firearm on the same men.

Holder, wearing a blue suit and face mask, stood up in the small court room next to his lawyer as the verdict was read. He had no visible reaction. His lawyer, Deputy Public Defender Aaron Jansen, conceded during the trial that Holder shot Hussle, 33, whose legal name is Ermias Asghedom, but had sought a lesser verdict of voluntary manslaughter.

Jansen said in an email that he was deeply disappointed in the first-degree murder verdict.

"It was always going to be tough given the high profile circumstances surrounding the case," Jansen said.

He added that he and Holder were grateful that the jury agreed that the attempted murder counts were overcharged. They plan to appeal the murder conviction, he said.

A jury of nine women and three men deliberated for about six hours over two days before reaching the verdict. Most of their deliberations took place Friday, and they promptly came to their unanimous decision Wednesday, briefly reconvening after a four-day break. A pair of typos on the verdict form discovered as the results were read forced jurors to briefly return to deliberations before the outcome could be made official, but they had no bearing on the outcome.

"We are both proud and I am a little relieved that the verdict came in a complete, absolute agreement with the charges that Eric Holder murdered Ermias Asghedom in cold blood," Deputy District Attorney John McKinney said outside the courtroom. "We hope that today is a day in which the Asghedom family and the friends and fans of Nipsey Hussle around the world will find some measure of closure."

No relatives of Hussle were in the room when the verdict was read, nor did any attend the trial.

The judge has a wide range of options when he sentences Holder on Sept. 15. The first-degree murder charge alone carries a sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

"Obviously nothing that happened here today can heal the wound, nothing that happened here today can restore Mr. Asghedom to this world, but we hope that there is some resounding peace in the fact that his killer will be in prison likely for the rest of his life," McKinney said.

The verdict brings an end to a legal saga that has lasted more than three years and a trial that was often delayed because of the pandemic.

Taika Waititi takes a hammer to Thor in 'Love & Thunder'

NEW YORK (AP)—To a large degree, modern blockbuster moviemaking has depended on the appeasement of fans to keep franchise juggernauts smoothly humming. But in making "Thor: Love and Thunder," Taika Waititi had no interest in that. He approached the film from the opposite direction. What would actually make fans angry?

"I wanted to show him in a light that most Thor fans wouldn't really want if you were to tell them," Waititi says. "If you were to say them: 'Yeah, I'm going to make Thor in love,' it's probably the last thing that a Thor fan really wants to hear."

"Thor: Love and Thunder," which opens Thursday, is Marvel's fourth Thor movie and Waititi's second after the 2017 smash success "Thor Ragnarok." That film, a hit with fans and critics, reinvented Chris Hemsworth's god of thunder and introduced a looser, idiosyncratic tone to Marvel's most monolithic hero.

But if "Ragnarok" was Waititi's version of a Marvel movie, "Love and Thunder" might simply be a Taika Waititi movie, without equivocation. Of the 29 films thus far in the Marvel cinematic universe, none may be so distinctively the work of its filmmaker.

In "Love and Thunder" there are things that usually never enter the MCU, like kids and cancer. It's scruffy, unruly and surprisingly human-scaled. Manly valor is mostly a joke. Thor isn't even really Thor. His hammer, Mjolnir, has transformed Natalie Portman's Jane into the Mighty Thor. By the time Waititi gets finished with him, Thor's biggest battle is convincing a child to wear proper footwear before leaving home.

"For me, it's good to give the fans something they don't know that they want," Waititi said in a recent interview by video conference from Los Angeles. "With 'Ragnarok' especially, when I signed on, a lot of fans were freaked out by that. They were like, 'Who is this guy? He's going to take our precious Thor and ruin it.' And I was like, 'Yeah. Exactly. That's exactly my intention. And I'm going to make it better, you just don't know it yet.'"

When Waititi was handed the reins of "Ragnarok," the 46-year-old New Zealand filmmaker was a less familiar figure to most Marvel fans — and the first Indigenous director to helm a major superhero movie. It was a massive leap in scale for Waititi, who after spending years painting in his late 20s turned to making comic independent films ("Boy," "Hunt for the Wilderpeople") with deadpan absurdity and freewheeling tonal shifts.

But since "Ragnarok," Waititi has emerged as a Hollywood dynamo, in front of the camera and behind it, juggling several armfuls of big studio franchises and more offbeat projects. His "Jojo Rabbit," a child's view of Nazi Germany in which Waititi played an imaginary Hitler, received six Oscar nominations in 2020. (Waititi won for adapted screenplay). He has another film for Searchlight Pictures, "Next Goal Wins," upcoming, as well as two Willy Wonka series for Netflix, a "Flash Gordon" film for Disney's 20th Century Studios, a "Time Bandits" series for Apple TV+ and a "Star Wars" movie he expects to soon write.

Hollywood has pushed just about whatever intellectual property it can find at Waititi, eager for him to dismantle it.

"It surprises me in that I never wanted to. I always wanted to make smaller things just with my friends," says Waititi. "The idea of working with a studio never appealed to me. Then I worked with Marvel and I realized, well, there are ways you can work with studios where it doesn't have to be painful."

Ciao! American Kennel Club adds breed: the bracco Italiano

AP

Elvira, a bracco Italiano, competes in the 24 inch class at the Masters Agility Competition during the 146th Westminster Dog Show on, June 18, 2022 in Tarrytown, N.Y.

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. dog lovers, say "benvenuto" to the bracco Italiano.

The ancient Italian bird-hunting dog is the 200th member of the American Kennel Club's roster of recognized breeds, the organization announced Wednesday. That means the handsome, powerful but amiable pointers can now go for best in show at many U.S. dog shows, including the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club event next year.

The bracco (pronounced BRAH'-koh) goes back more than two millennia in Europe but wasn't brought to the U.S. until the mid-1990s, according to the AKC. It's sometimes called the Italian pointer or Italian pointing dog.

The ideal bracco should be "tough and adapted to all types of hunting, reliable, docile and intelligent," while also friendly and neither shy nor aggressive, according to the AKC's standard for the medium-to-large breed.

"They're very easy to live with and be around, and yet it's like a light switch—when it's time to jump in the back of the truck and go hunting, and they've got a job, they just light up like a Christmas tree," said owner and breeder Lisa Moller of Portage, Wisconsin.

She and husband Dale relied on Labrador retrievers as pheasant-hunting helpers before a friend introduced them to a bracco about five years ago. The couple was quickly struck by the dog's methodical hunting style in the field and affectionate nature at home: "They're very Velcro," Lisa Moller said.

Family drama intensifies with dogs' disappearance

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have inherited four dogs from relatives. I was out of state for a month (my husband was home) when two of them were dognapped, driven 42 miles away and abandoned in the wilderness. I suspected who had done it right away, but when I heard where the dogs had been abandoned, I knew without a doubt. We were lucky: One dog was microchipped, which eventually led him back to us. Both were cared for by rescue foundations until I could bring them home.

The person who did it is our son's girlfriend -- and the mother of his child. We are appalled and feel betrayed and sickened. My son admitted he knew she had done it. He showed remorse and gave a heartfelt apology. She has completely avoided us, with no admission or apology.

Should we press charges for stealing our dogs and abandoning them? They live on our property in a home we own, and pay nothing to live here. She and I used to be close. Now my husband and I no longer want to have her around. All trust is gone. Please advise me how to deal with this.

VICTIM IN OHIO

DEA**R VICTIM: Did the dogs do anything to threaten the girlfriend or your grandchild? If the answer is yes, then those animals present a danger. If the answer is no, tell your son you plan to press charges against his girlfriend for theft and animal cruelty, and you expect him to corroborate that she was the perpetrator. If he refuses, give them a date by which they should be off your property.**

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently lost my precious husband of 43 years to COVID. Needless to say, this is a very painful time for me. Since his passing, my "best friend" has been blowing me off if we have plans, and no longer calling or texting at all. I don't get it. I have done a lot for her during our friendship.

I'm experiencing the hardest time in my life, and I really need a friend. Now I'm not only grieving the loss of my husband, but I am also grieving a lost friendship and don't understand why. Aside from confronting her, is there anything I can do?

LONELY AND SAD IN NEVADA

DEAR LONELY: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your husband. That your friend is behaving the way she has been is regrettable. Before confronting her, please let me suggest some things you can do: Join a grief support group if you don't already belong to one. Your doctor or religious adviser can direct you to one. Stay physically and mentally active, which will give you less time to brood.

After that, you can decide whether it's in your interest to confront this person for her inability or unwillingness to be present for you when you needed her most. Do NOT expect her to magically change if you do this, but it may provide you the opportunity to get what's bothering you off your chest, which you are certainly entitled to do.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

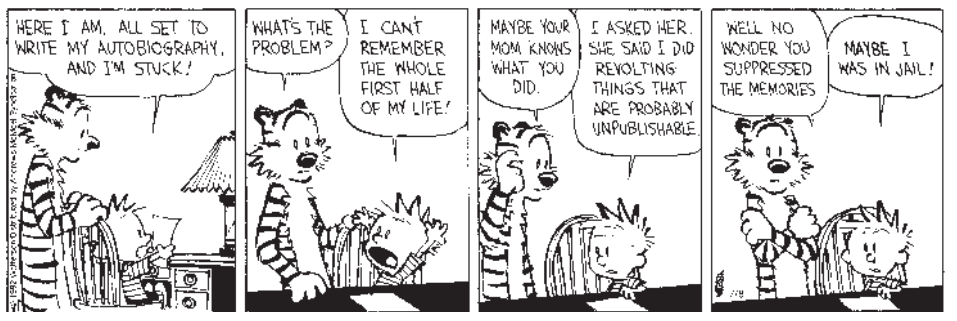
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

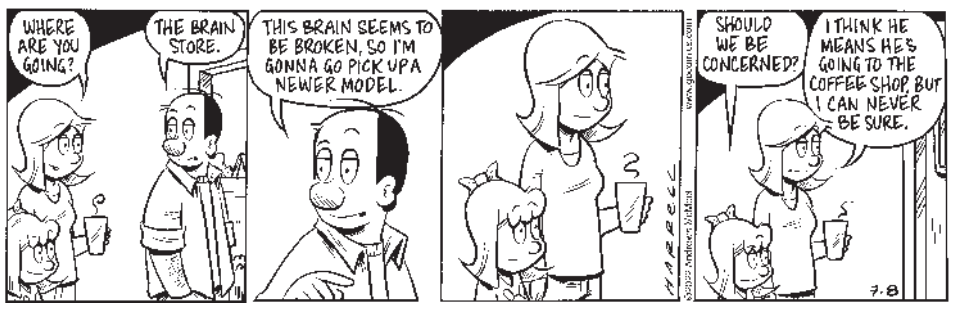

HERE I AM, ALL SET TO WRITE MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY, AND I'M STUCK!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE WHOLE FIRST HALF OF MY LIFE!
MAYBE YOUR MOM KNOWS WHAT YOU DID.
I ASKED HER. SHE SAID I DID REVOLTING THINGS THAT ARE PROBABLY UNPUBLISHABLE
WELL NO WONDER YOU SUPPRESSED THE MEMORIES
MAYBE I WAS IN JAIL!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THE BRAIN STORE.
THIS BRAIN SEEMS TO BE BROKEN, SO I'M GONNA GO PICK UP A NEWER MODEL.
SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED?
I THINK HE MEANS HE'S GOING TO THE COFFEE SHOP, BUT I CAN NEVER BE SURE.
7-8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY, KID. OUR TABLE'S STICKY. COULD YOU WIPE IT DOWN FOR US?
SORRY. I'M PAID MINIMUM WAGE, SO I ONLY DO MINIMUM WORK.
FINE! I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
WOULD YOU TELL MY MANAGER I DID IT?
7-8

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Balm target
4 Baseball's Ty
8 Get wind of
12 Have bills
13 "Beetle Bailey" dog
14 Sax range
15 Pasadena arena
17 Texter's "As I see it"
18 Complete
19 Newt
21 Ozone, for one
22 Elevated
26 Weary sounds
29 Watch chain
30 Sardonic
31 Slightly
32 In medias —
33 Harvard rival
34 Baseball's Hodges
35 Singer Scaggs
36 Avid
37 Proverbs
39 eBay offer
40 Haw preceder
41 Draw forth
45 Corporate symbol
48 Brisk tempos
50 Sacred bird of Egypt
51 Yam
52 — loss
53 Shade
54 Genesis garden
55 Rail

DOWN
1 Traditional tales
2 Victor's cry
3 Nuisance
4 Hooded snakes
5 Some Oklahoma natives
6 Texter's "Incidentally"
7 Waist-length jackets
8 Part of Hispaniola
9 Stately tree
10 Sports fig.
11 Aussie hopper
16 Octet count
20 "Terrific!"
23 Booty
24 Perry's creator
25 Color worker
26 Long story
27 Footnote abbr.
28 Arizona river
29 Shriner's chapeau
32 Optimistic
33 "Get what I'm sayin'?"
35 Garden buzzer
36 Actress Brennan
38 Specter
39 Ball VIP
42 Grouch
43 Speck
44 Russian ruler
45 Ignited
46 Kimono sash
47 Martini liquor
49 Young bloke

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	I	R	E		P	H	D	S		N	E	O
U	R	A	L		A	M	C	I		A	L	B
G	A	M	E	I	I	M	E	S		M	A	I
S	N	I	V	E				A	G	E	N	T
			E	L		H	A	L	A	L		
K	I	L	N		F	E	D		B	E	D	S
F	A				R	N	A			S	O	S
G	E	M	S		A	R	M		L	S	T	S
		E	N	N	U	I		B	O			
S	I	D	L	E			F	E	W	E	S	T
L	O	U		C	A	M	E	A	F	T	E	R
E		C		K	Y	R	A		A	R	E	A
D	A	K		S	N	I	T		F	R	M	

Yesterday's answer 7-8

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
18						■	19	20		■	■	■
■	■	■	21			■	22			23	24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38			■	39			■	■	■
■	■	■	40			■	41			42	43	44
45	46	47		■	48	49						
50				■	51				■	52		
53				■	54				■	55		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sophia Bush, 40; Milo Ventimiglia, 45; Kevin Bacon, 64; Anjelica Huston, 71.

Happy Birthday: Share your beliefs and feelings, and make an effort to do something to help a cause that concerns you. What you offer to do for others will lead to associations with individuals who can offer knowledge and introductions. Designate time for work and play. Balance, moderation and goodwill will help you lead a vibrant life. Make happiness your priority. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 23, 33, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't make a mountain out of a molehill; the consequences will leave you in a precarious position. Stay calm and look for alternatives that make your life easier and your relationships better. Keep the peace and strive for personal growth. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Emotional situations will escalate quickly. Have another plan in place if something goes awry. Be true to yourself, and don't believe secondhand information. Rethink your goal, and make sure all your paperwork is updated. Someone's loyalty is questionable. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Focus on how you look and what you do for others. How you handle those around you and what you put up with will determine the outcome. Don't overlook what makes you happy. Pay attention to spending habits. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Participate, and do your best to make a difference. How you reach out to others and what you are willing to do will speak volumes about your character, integrity and desire to do what's right. Use your imagination to create your destiny. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Choose to get along with everyone. It will be easy to get into an emotional spat with someone if false information or exaggeration occurs. Precision, paying attention to detail and verifying information will help ward off a precarious situation. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get fired up about what you want to do, and don't stop until you bring about positive change. A move, trip or educational pursuit that adds new skills to your toolbox will help you take your attributes in an exciting direction. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll face opposition if you try to make changes that aren't popular. Find out what the majority wants. Market what you have to offer, and aggressively seek approval. Build a strong base from your charm. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't let desire or greed lead you astray. Consider what you can offer and who you want to help. Paying attention to what's essential will make you feel good about what you do and who you are. Pay it forward. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Dedication and hard work will not go unnoticed. Stop anyone who interferes or tries to lead you astray. Focus on home improvement, getting along with loved ones and making a positive lifestyle change. Don't exaggerate or overspend. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Ask friends, relatives and peers to help you make your home into a fun gathering place for everyone to enjoy. Understanding what others desire or expect will help you gain popularity and get what you want and need in return. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll face opposition when dealing with sensitive issues. If you let anger take the reins, you will face a stalemate. Look inward and concentrate on self-improvement instead of trying to change others. Share only what's necessary. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Deal with money matters first and foremost. Spontaneous purchases will end up costing more than you can afford. When a salesperson or scam artist uses pressure tactics, keep your wits about you. Stick close to home. Think big; be moderate. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, intuitive and generous. You are assertive and adjustable.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	6		
2		5		1	6	7
3				4		8
7						9
4	6	3			7	1 5
8				2		1
6		7		3	8	4
			9	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Wednesday's Answer

7	6	3	2	8	5	9	1	4
4	2	5	1	3	9	6	7	8
8	9	1	4	6	7	3	5	2
1	4	8	9	5	6	7	2	3
3	7	6	8	2	1	5	4	9
9	5	2	7	4	3	1	8	6
6	8	9	5	7	2	4	3	1
2	3	7	6	1	4	8	9	5
5	1	4	3	9	8	2	6	7

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE CASTLE DISTRICT OF PRAGUE Solution: 6 letters

S	E	E	C	N	A	S	S	I	A	N	E	R	J	S
E	T	S	N	E	D	L	O	G	M	A	R	K	E	T
E	N	R	A	N	L	S	E	C	I	F	F	O	W	E
V	B	T	U	C	G	A	I	M	I	R	O	U	E	U
A	A	O	R	C	R	H	V	A	U	L	T	R	L	Q
R	R	E	G	A	T	I	R	E	H	S	U	T	S	N
G	O	S	E	O	N	U	A	A	I	T	E	O	S	A
R	Q	U	G	K	Ⓣ	C	R	T	C	D	R	U	U	B
U	U	P	A	L	Ⓐ	C	E	E	S	E	E	R	M	V
B	E	R	R	A	Ⓞ	L	T	R	W	W	T	M	M	O
I	L	E	D	W	Ⓜ	I	E	O	E	A	E	A	E	H
L	A	M	E	R	H	E	T	L	N	L	K	D	R	A
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Judge hits slam for MLB-leading 30th HR, Yanks rout Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Aaron Judge hit a grand slam for his major league-leading 30th home run and the New York Yankees routed the Pittsburgh Pirates 16-0 on Wednesday night to split their two-game interleague series.

Luis Severino pitched six dominant innings and Aaron Hicks also had a grand slam as New York scored 11 runs in the eighth and ninth and halted a two-game skid.

Judge became the first Yankees player to hit 30 home runs before the All-Star break twice in his career when he turned on a pitch from Pittsburgh reliever Manny Banuelos in the eighth for his third career slam.

Hicks cleared the bases in the ninth when he went deep against Pirates utility infielder Josh VanMeter.

Giancarlo Stanton, Josh Donaldson, Joey Gallo and Kyle Higashioka also homered for New York to boost the Yankees' season total to 139 homers, easily tops in the majors.

Severino (5-3) allowed four hits while striking out three without issuing a walk to pick up his first victory in more than a month.

Mitch Keller (2-6) worked in and out of trouble over six innings, allowing four runs on a season-high 10 hits with a walk and seven strikeouts.

AP

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge, right, celebrates with Kyle Higashioka (66) as he returns to the dugout after hitting a grand slam off Pittsburgh Pirates relief pitcher Manny Banurelos during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

Dodgers 2, Rockies 1

In Los Angeles, Cody Bellinger scored the winning run on Mookie Betts' infield single with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of Colorado.

Dodgers starter Mitch White and three relievers combined to allow only one hit — a single by Brendan Rodgers in the sixth.

Bellinger, who had three hits, and Gavin Lux opened the ninth with back-to-back singles. Lux hit a bleeder to the open left side of the infield with the shift on that allowed Bellinger to reach third.

The Rockies then went to a five-man infield, bringing in center fielder Garrett Hampson and leaving only Kris Bryant and Charlie Blackmon to patrol the outfield. Pinch-hitter Will Smith drew a walk to load the bases for Betts with nobody out.

Giants 7, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Austin Slater hit a tiebreaking bases-loaded double in the ninth inning and San Francisco rallied from an early four-run deficit, beating Arizona and snapping a six-game skid.

Darin Ruf hit a two-run, pinch-hit homer off Joe Mantiply (1-2) in the eighth inning, tying the game at 4. Slater, also pinch-hitting, led off the inning with a bunt single.

In the ninth, Mantiply hit Mike Yastrzemski with a pitch and Sean Poppen came on for Arizona. Pinch-hitter Wilmer Flores singled and, after a forceout, Tommy La Stella walked to load the bases. Slater then drilled a line drive past first base, scoring the go-ahead runs. Austin Wynns followed with a sacrifice fly to push the lead to three runs.

John Brebbia (4-1) retired Arizona in order in the eighth and picked up the victory. Sam Long earned his first save.

Cubs 2, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, P.J. Higgins hit a tiebreaking two-out double off Josh Hader in the ninth inning, and Chicago rallied to beat Milwaukee.

After Brewers starter Corbin Burnes threw seven shutout innings, the Cubs broke through against Milwaukee's bullpen by scoring in each of the last two frames. The Cubs took two of three at Milwaukee and have followed a 10-game losing streak by winning four straight series.

Patrick Wisdom led off the ninth with a walk for Chicago and stole second one out later. Higgins brought home Wisdom by sending a 1-1 slider from Hader (0-2) just inside the right-field line.

Angels 5, Marlins 2

In Miami, Shohei Ohtani allowed one unearned run in seven dominant innings and had the go-ahead hit as Los Angeles snapped Miami's six-game winning streak.

The reigning AL MVP won his fifth consecutive start, limiting the Marlins to two hits. Ohtani (8-4) walked three and struck out 10 before 18,741, the fourth largest crowd at loanDepot Park this season.

Three-time AL MVP Mike Trout was hitless in four at-bats and had an RBI. Max Stassi doubled and reached base three times to help the Angels snap a four-game skid.

Ohtani's two-RBI single with the bases loaded chased Miami starter Trevor Rogers (4-7) and capped a three-run fifth that put Los Angeles ahead 3-1. Run-scoring singles from Taylor Ward and Luis Rengifo in the seventh padded the Angels' lead.

Mets 8, Reds 3, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, Brandon Nimmo's three-run homer capped a five-run 10th inning and New York rallied to beat Cincinnati.

Starling Marte grounded an RBI double over third base off Hunter Strickland with one out in the ninth, scoring Nimmo from first to tie the game at 3.

Dominic Smith's double off Dauri Moreta (0-2) drove home pinch-runner Ender Inciarte from second base with the go-ahead run in the 10th. James McCann delivered an RBI single before Nimmo's shot sent the NL East leaders to their 20th series win this season.

Pete Alonso went 4 for 5 with a double. Nimmo had three hits and scored three times from the leadoff spot as New York remained 2 1/2 games ahead of second-place Atlanta.

Braves 3, Cardinals 0

In Atlanta, Marcell Ozuna and Eddie Rosario hit back-to-back homers, Max Fried threw six strong innings and Atlanta beat slumping St. Louis.

Fried (9-2) and Miles Mikolas (5-7) each threw four scoreless innings before Ozuna led off the fifth with his 17th homer deep into the left-field seats. Rosario followed with his first homer. Austin Riley and Travis d'Arnaud added back-to-back doubles off Mikolas in the sixth, giving Atlanta a 3-0 lead.

Fried gave up only five hits, including two to Albert Pujols, with one walk and four strikeouts in winning his nine consecutive decision after losses in his first two starts. Left-hander A.J. Minter pitched the ninth for his second save.

Mikolas allowed three runs on five hits in six innings, ending his streak of allowing no more than two earned runs in five consecutive starts. The Cardinals have lost a season-high four straight.

Royals 7, Astros 4

In Houston, Whit Merrifield, Hunter Dozier and Emmanuel Rivera homered as Kansas City roughed up Cristian Javier early and snapped Houston's major-league best eight-game winning streak.

Javier (6-4) had trouble with the Royals almost immediately. Merrifield sent Javier's third pitch into the seats for his fourth homer. Javier walked Andrew Benintendi before Dozier's two-out shot made it 3-0. Rivera homered to left-center in the second.

Javier yielded five runs on four hits with three walks and seven strikeouts in five innings for his first lost since June 6.

Brad Keller (4-9) allowed five hits and four runs in 5 2/3 innings. Scott Barlow earned his 13th save.

Aledmys Díaz homered for a second straight game and Jake Meyers had two hits and two RBIs, but the Astros were unable to overcome their early deficit.

Nationals 3, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Josiah Gray struck out a career-high 11 and shook off Kyle Schwarber's second consecutive two-homer game, helping last-place Washington beat Philadelphia.

Luis Garcia hit a two-run double in the seventh inning off Phillies starter Aaron Nola (5-6) for a 3-2 lead.

Schwarber's two homers off Gray (7-5) increased his NL-best total to 27. Only New York Yankees slugger Aaron Judge has more homers with 30.

Gray walked one and allowed four hits over six innings. Tanner Rainey worked the ninth for his 12th save.

Yadiel Hernandez and Keibert Ruiz hit consecutive singles off Nola in the seventh and Garcia followed with a double to center to make it 3-2.

Nola gave up three runs, seven hits and struck out three in 7 2/3 innings.

White Sox 9, Twins 8, 10 innings

In Chicago, Andrew Vaughn tied the game with a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Leury Garcia hit a game-ending single in the 10th to give Chicago the win over Minnesota.

The White Sox trailed five times in the game and tied it each time before taking their first and only lead in extra innings to avoid a three-game sweep. Chicago snapped a seven-game losing streak to the AL Central-leading Twins.

Playing his first game since April 23, Eloy Jiménez made an immediate impact for the White Sox, hitting a two-run homer and an RBI single.

Jose Ruiz (1-0) walked Jose Miranda to start the 10th but got out of trouble with an inning-ending double play.

Automatic runner Adam Engel ascored on Garcia's hit off Jovani Moran (0-1) in the 10th.

Blue Jays 2, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Bo Bichette hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning off Domingo Acevedo (1-2) and Toronto rallied past Oakland to snap a five-game skid.

The Blue Jays' Matt Chapman homered against his former team for the second straight day.

Ramón Laureano homered for the A's, who failed to complete their first sweep of the season.

Blue Jays starter José Berríos pitched six strong innings, allowing one run on four hits with six strikeouts and a walk. Adam Cimber (8-2) followed with two perfect frames.

Jordan Romano worked the ninth for his 18th save in 21 opportunities.

Rays 7, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Corey Kluber worked six scoreless innings and Tampa Bay spoiled the major league debut of Brayan Bello, the top pitching prospect in Boston's system.

With a fastball topping out at 97 mph, the 23-year-old Bello (0-1) worked four up-and-down innings, allowing four runs on six hits with three walks and four strikeouts.

Randy Arozarena had a two-out, two-run double in the third against Bello, and Kevin Kiermaier had another run-scoring double to make it 4-0. Arozarena added a solo homer in the ninth off Tyler Danish.

Kluber (4-5) allowed three hits with no walks and five strikeouts.

Tigers 8, Guardians 2

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit a two-out, two-run single in the fifth inning as part of his three-RBI day and Detroit completed its first four-game sweep of Cleveland since 2013.

Michael Pineda (2-3) allowed two runs and five hits over five innings. Four Tigers relievers combined to pitch four innings of scoreless relief.

Cleveland's Shane Bieber (4-4) gave up five runs on seven hits and three walks while striking out six over 5 2/3 innings.

Orioles 2, Rangers 1

In Baltimore, Spenser Watkins pitched more than six innings for the first time in his career, and Baltimore beat for its first three-game sweep of the season.

Watkins (2-1) allowed one run and four hits with three strikeouts over 6 2/3 innings. Jorge López earned his 14th save after blowing his last two chances.

The Rangers ended a major league-best streak of 11 games with a homer, one shy of the franchise record.

Glenn Otto (4-5) allowed two runs — one earned — with three hits and five strikeouts over five innings.

The Orioles swept the Rangers for the first time since 2017 and are 11-11-4 in series this season.

Simona Halep gets back to semifinals in Wimbledon return

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—In a roundabout way, Simona Halep is finally getting a chance to defend her Wimbledon title.

And she's picking up right where she left off.

Halep won the title at the grass-court Grand Slam in 2019, but she missed a chance to play as reigning champion in 2020 because the tournament was canceled amid the coronavirus pandemic. She then missed a second chance last year because of an injured left calf.

"That was the perfect match of my life," Halep said of her straight-set victory over Serena Williams three years ago. "Now I'm playing really well. I'm feeling confident that I feel the game the way I felt back then."

The 16th-seeded Halep extended her winning streak at the All England Club to 12 matches and reached the semifinals for the third time by beating Amanda Anisimova 6-2, 6-4 Wednesday on Centre Court.

In the semifinals on Thursday, again on Centre Court, Halep will face Elena Rybakina in the second match of the day. The 17th-seeded Rybakina defeated Ajla Tomljanovic 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 on No. 1 Court in Wednesday's other quarterfinal match.

Third-seeded Ons Jabeur will play Tatjana Maria in the first semifinal match. They advanced by winning their quarterfinal matches on Tuesday.

In the men's quarterfinals, two-time champion Rafael Nadal and Nick Kyrgios both won Wednesday and will play Friday in the semifinals. Nadal beat Taylor Fritz 3-6, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10-4) on Centre Court. Kyrgios defeated Cristian Garin 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (5) on No. 1 Court.

Halep is making her 10th appearance at Wimbledon. She is the only Grand Slam champion left in the women's tournament, winning the French Open in 2018 before taking the title at the All England Club the next year.

"I'm different. I play different. I play well now. All the matches were different than in 2019," Halep said. "I think every match I got a little bit better. I had tough opponents, and I did what I had to do every day."

The match against Anisimova appeared to be as straightforward as her first four victories at this year's tournament — all came in straight sets. But the 20th-seeded American broke Halep when she was serving for the match at 5-2.

Anisimova then had three more break points when Halep again served for the match at 5-4, but the Romanian won five straight points to finish the match.

"I feel like she played without thinking that she has something to lose, so every ball was really hard hit," Halep said. "But I refused that she's going to come at 5-all. Even if I was 0-40, I was hard a little bit on myself. I pumped myself. I served very well."

AP

Romania's Simona Halep returns to Amanda Anisimova of the US in a women's singles quarterfinal match on day ten of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

Halep injured her left calf more than a year ago, forcing her to withdraw from last year's French Open and Wimbledon. She started working with Patrick Mouratoglou, the former coach of Williams, in April and has now matched her best run at a major since reaching the semifinals at the 2020 Australian Open.

Next up for the Romanian will be Rybakina, a 23-year-old Kazakh who is playing at Wimbledon for only the second time in her career. She lost in the fourth round last year.

Rybakina dropped her first set of the tournament but broke Tomljanovic early in the second and third sets. She finished the match with 15 aces.

"I think that the key, of course, is my serve, aggressive game," Rybakina said of her next match against Halep. "She's a great champion. She's moving really well, reading the game. I just try to do my best, focus on things which I can control: my serve, my shots, emotions."

ZHIMIN

From Page 24

her coach, Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, for her success in the Games. Coldeen nominated Jin for the best junior athlete of the Games' plum.

Aside from Jin, the Pacific Games Council also hailed New Caledonia's Hugo Koch as Best Junior Male athlete of the games after winning two gold medals (men's and team event in golf).

Tahiti's impressive men's V6 team was also named Best Team of the Games, while Papua New Guinea's athletics coach Brett Green was named Best Coach. For Best Technical Official, Yvonne Mullins of athletics got the nod

PNG's Dika Toua and Morea Baru were announced as Best Athlete of the Games during the closing ceremony at the Oleai Sports Complex last June 25.

Pacific Games Council CEO Andrew Minogue congratulated all the winners for embodying the spirit of competition and sportsmanship throughout the Games.

"The Pacific Games Council is proud of all the winners from the 11th Pacific Mini Games awards. From world-class weightlifters Dika Toua and Morea Baru, to the world-leading Tahitian va'a paddlers, and onto the best two junior athletes, Zhimin Jin and Hugo Koch from golf, these Games were truly blessed with these excellent performances," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Camacho, who served as Jin's caddy during the Games, congratulated her for being only the second CNMI woman golfer to win a gold medal and third to medal overall.

"It's really an honor to guide and see someone achieve such success through hard work and being determined to succeed and I'm also hoping that through what she's done and achieved that it will inspire other girls to follow. because honestly the CNMI needs girls to start playing so that they too can represent the entire CNMI in golf."

The veteran ball striker said the 2022 Mini Games marked the first time that the CNMI had a women's golf team.

"When I first started giving her lessons I knew that she was there for the long haul and not just there for the sake of taking lessons and these are the kind of athletes that as a coach you invest time and patience to push them forward and not pull them back. With Zhimin I think that she's driven by her heart and instinct because she's passionate about golf and there's no one that stands in her way except herself and that's where she needs my help the most," he added.

Mini Games golf sports competition manager Geri Dela Cruz congratulated Jin for winning the best junior athlete of the Games.

"It's an honor for the golf community to have Zhimin Jin be selected as the junior female athlete of the Pacific Mini Games. President Vidhya [Lakhan] told me during the Games that golf was the only sport that requires a team to consist of 50% junior athletes. He also further mentioned that it is the Pacific Games Council's goal to require all sports to have junior athletes. Zhimin has been so dedicated to the sport and her hard work brought the CNMI the gold. This is a proud moment for us to celebrate. She bested all females in our four-day tournament. I hope that with her accomplishments, more youth would want to compete in golf," she said.

NETTERS

From Page 24

and hitting session for up to 20 members of any organization that donates and they will also be available for a photo opportunity in recognition of the support.

"NMITA hopes that the pride in our successes in the recent international competitions and our commitment to the success of our junior program will inspire you to give," added Herras.

She also said the tournament will help them grow as tennis players—mentally and physically—as the competition is at a high level.

For more information or to donate, click on https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-get-the-nmi-tennis-team-to-nations-cup?sharetype=teams&member=20383123&pc=fb_co_campmgmt_w&rcid=r01-1656841418322-9da46f4cfab411ec&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_lico%2Bshare-sheet&fbclid=IwAR1ktS0RvrXSCq9O7uDRk6K-rf-HRAVZ-n7zGGP7AnrD-mxwVa1K2NDKG5f2g.

STILL

From Page 24

phase of the basketball federation and the newly implemented national programs. Not to mention the many challenges that we had faced such as COVID-19 and lack of facilities to train."

The CNMI Women's National Team settled for the silver medal after falling to host Guam, 37-70, in the championship game, while the CNMI Men's National Team salvaged the bronze medal after repeating against the Federated States of Micronesia, 82-78. Both the men's and women's tournaments were held at the University of Guam Calvo Fieldhouse.

The 2021 NMSA Administrator of the Year also took the opportunity to thank his fellow officials in the NMIBF and the organization's sponsors for making the national team program a success.

"On behalf of the NMI basketball federation, I want to give a special thanks to all our supporters, because without them we wouldn't have been able to even have a basketball team to represent our home. Whether it was their monetary donations to help us fund our trips and all the expenses that come with it, to allowing us to use their facility so that our athletes can continue to train."

Lee also extended his kudos to the Northern Marianas Sports Association and its president Jerry Tan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and FIBA Oceania and its executive director Amanda Jenkins and development manager Annie La Fleur for their continuous support and guidance.

"All the programs and grants that were offered and given to the NMI basketball federation were instrumental to where our federation is today. The FIBA Elite Women's Program was also a product of our national women's team success," he added.

The NMIBF president also gave credit to the mentorship of coaches Joe Diaz, Keith Nabors, Catherine Attao Toves, and Dave Apatang as well as the national players for their time and dedication for the federation and for the Team NMI.

"Aside from bringing home the medals, know that what you have accomplished is not just the wins at the last FIBA Micro Cup. You all have helped the NMI basketball federation establish a standard on what it means to be in the national program/team. You all have helped lay the foundation for the future athletes as well as our future coaches," he said.

The CNMI Men's National Basketball Team was made up of Donovan Brennan, Eli Aughenbaugh, Chioni Dela Cruz, Greg Sablan, Leo Naraja, Shane Deleon Guerrero, Lucio Aldan, Frankie Satur, Jeff Castro, Sir Lashu Dela Cruz, and captain Coby Santos.

The CNMI Women's National Basketball Team, meanwhile, was composed of Marlene Lumabi, Michelle and Richelle Kautz, Kaia Travilla, Azriel Fatialofa, Fiona Bucalig, Angellyn Roligat, Destiny Pangilinan, Gabrielle Race, E'Anna and Ky'Sonne Won, and captain Madeleine Alegre. Santos and the Won sisters also wound up in the FIBA Micro Cup mythical team.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	59	23	.720	_
Boston	45	37	.549	14
Tampa Bay	45	37	.549	14
Toronto	45	38	.542	14½
Baltimore	39	44	.470	20½

Central Division

Minnesota	47	38	.553	_
Cleveland	40	40	.500	4½
Chicago	39	41	.488	5½
Detroit	34	47	.420	11
Kansas City	30	50	.375	14½

West Division

Houston	53	28	.654	_
Seattle	41	42	.494	13
Texas	37	43	.463	15½
Los Angeles	38	45	.458	16
Oakland	28	56	.333	26½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	51	31	.622	_
Atlanta	49	34	.590	2½
Philadelphia	43	39	.524	8
Miami	39	41	.488	11
Washington	30	54	.357	22

Central Division

Milwaukee	47	37	.560	_
St. Louis	44	40	.524	3
Chicago	34	48	.415	12
Pittsburgh	33	48	.407	12½
Cincinnati	28	53	.346	17½

West Division

Los Angeles	52	29	.642	_
San Diego	47	36	.566	6
San Francisco	41	39	.513	10½
Arizona	37	45	.451	15½
Colorado	35	47	.427	17½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Panit, Holloway are 2022 Gold's Gym Challenge winners

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Rainnier Panit and Amanda Holloway are each $500 richer after being declared overall winners of the 2022 Gold's Gym Challenge.

Panit, a 23-year-old freelancer, lost nearly 30 lbs, an estimated 9% body fat, 9 inches from his waist, and gained significant muscle tone and fitness.

He told *Saipan Tribune* after being announced the overall winner that it was "all about the discipline and I'm so proud that I did it all the way."

Holloway, a 30-year-old doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center, said she just wanted to take her health into her own hands.

"I saw this challenge and I was like this would be a perfect opportunity for me to do it. I'm really grateful to Gold's Gym for making it possible for me to do all of this and to make these changes for myself. I wasn't honestly expecting that I would win. I was kind of just focusing on trying to be my best self and it was a surprise that I won."

LEIGH GASES

Amanda Holloway, winner of the overall women's category, poses with Gold's Gym general manager Tyce Mister during the Gold's Gym Challenge banquet last Saturday at Spicy Thai Restaurant.

This year's challenge was eight weeks and had a total of 66 challengers sign up initially. Forty-six challengers completed the challenge, which is a 70% completion rate. The challenge began last April 16.

With the 46 challengers, their estimated average body fat percent lost was four percent. Their average inches lost around their waist was 3.5 inches and their collective inches lost was 160 inches. The average weight lost per challenger was 10.7 lbs and an amazing 493 lbs was lost overall for the whole group that participated this year.

Additionally for the challenge, there were age categories and winners for each as well. For the women's 18 to 29 years old, first place was Ha Neul "Sky" Kim, second place was Jan Reyes, and third place was Melody Johnson.

For the men's 18 to 29 years old, first place was Edgar Panlilio Jr., second place was Jason Salazar, who also won the most inspirational and best essay award, and third place was David Hidalgo.

In the women's 30 to 49 years old, first place went to Cheryl Esguerra, second place went to "Mel" Chutima Borja, and third place was a tie between Cecile Guevarra and Aileen Pangelinan.

In the men's 30 to 49 years old, first place went to Audie Maratita, second place went to Renato Barros, and third place went to Patrick Tudela.

In the women's 50 years old and up, first place went to Desolee Calayo, second place Shielan Seno, and third place was a tie between Arianna Pando and Li Fen Luan.

LEIGH GASES

Rannier Panit, winner of the overall men's category, flexes for the cameras as he receives his prizes during the Gold's Gym Challenge banquet last Saturday at the Spicy Thai Restaurant.

The winner of the most challenge points went to Liezel Bordios.

Gold's Gym Saipan general manager Tyce Mister said that "The Gold's Gym Challenge is a 'transformation contest.' It is not meant to be just how much weight a person has lost. A person can burn 10 lbs of body fat and build 10 lbs of lean muscle and still weigh the same. And that really is the goal for a lot of people: to lose some body fat, without losing any lean body mass or to even increase their muscle mass."

He added that "judging is based on a visible transformation (muscle tone, visible weight loss, and visual fitness). Judges also look at statistics and the essay if needed. The judging is not easy."

The challengers had a chance to compete for a piece of the $5,000 cash and prize pool.

The Gold's Gym Challenge has been an annual event since 2013. The challenge serves the community to be a positive opportunity to promote health and fitness. The sponsors for this year's event were Michelob Ultra, PHI Pharmacy, Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center, Turn Key Solutions, and Gold's Gym Saipan.

Last year, Paul Ruechoway was the overall male winner and Emily Santos was the overall female winner.

144 golfers battle at 2022 #WeBelieve golf tourney

With perfect golf weather conditions, 144 golfers hit the links at Coral Ocean Golf Resort last Saturday for the 2022 #WeBelieve Golf Tournament, the signature fundraiser for Rep. Angel A. Demapan's bid to fill one of two Saipan senatorial seats in the upcoming general election.

First held in 2020, the 2nd Annual #WeBelieve Golf Tournament was canceled in 2021 due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases that year. As a result, this past weekend's tournament saw over 150 registered golfers eager to claim the top prize in the second consecutive sold out 2-man scramble golf tournament. Unfortunately, the maximum number of players the course can take is 144, preventing nearly a dozen golfers on the waitlist from entering the tournament.

At 8am, Demapan and tournament director Joey C. DelaCruz addressed the golfers before sending the teams out for tee off. They welcomed Team NMI Golf's female gold medalist, Zhi Min Jin, and the bronze medal men's team members, J.J. Atalig, Franco Santos, Joshua Atalig, and Zhi Li. They also recognized members of Team NMI Baseball's gold medalists who were in attendance to support Demapan's fundraiser.

"It was such an honor to have our hometown medalists in attendance to support the #WeBelieve campaign," said Demapan. "What was also very humbling was to have players representing the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Northern Islands, and Guam."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) poses with Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan) during last Saturday's #WeBelieve Golf Tournament at the Coral Ocean Resort golf course.

Demapan also thanked the forty hole sponsors for their support and generosity. "It was overwhelming to get so much support from our private sector partners and local families who signed up to be a hole sponsor," added Demapan.

After four and a half hours of competition, the tournament banquet was held at poolside while scores were tabulated for low gross, double peoria, and the optional play contests.

The results are as follows:

Surprisingly, the top three teams all tied with a gross score of 65. This forced tournament organizers to resort to a scorecard playoff using the lowest handicap par 4 holes to determine which teams placed first, second and third. As a result, the team of Franco Santos and Harry Nakamura bagged the top prize of the tournament. Kazu Dela Cruz and Dominic Kieffer came in second, followed by Jin Fenchun and Ma Zekang.

Double Peoria winners were the following:

1. Joey Cruz/Bill Quitano (67.60)
2. Glenn Maratita/Joel Hocog (69)
3. Shayne Villanueva/Jess Ramon (69)

The prizes for low gross and double peoria were $500, $300, and $200 for the first, second and third place, respectively.

In the optional play contests, the following individuals took home the prize for coming closest to the pin—Freddy Cataluna in hole No. 3, Zhi Xingkai in hole No. 7, Patrick Fitial in hole No. 12, and Shirlyn Jones in hole No. 14.

Ben Duenas bested all the other participants for most accurate Drive in hole No. 5 and Harry Nakamura went the distance to claim the longest drive in hole No. 18.

The golf course was lined up with banners displaying the names of sponsors at each hole. At the banquet, Demapan and his campaign chair Dave Attao recognized the hole sponsors and donors for their contribution and support. ***(PR)***

Acha'ikak Kulot 5K set tomorrow

Calling all runners, walkers, and nature-lovers to the first-ever Acha'ikak Kulot 5K at LauLau Bay tomorrow, July 9.

This is a free event for the Marianas community in an effort to promote active healthy activities in Precinct 5. It is a color run, turn around course, 5K scenic trail that starts at the bottom of the San Vicente Laulau Bay entrance and goes all the way to the Laulau Beach dive site and back.

This is a race sanctioned by Northern Marianas Athletics and Run Saipan. Check in begins at 5am. Participants are advised to park at the San Vicente Elementary School field and take the shuttle provided by NMTech to the check-in spot Last shuttle from the field will be at 5:45am. You can park along Isa Drive if you come late and catch the shuttle provided at the top of the Laulau Bay entrance in San Vicente (Not Kagman backroad Route 34). Race begins at 6am and to register online for free go to bit.ly/P5KLaulau.

Organizers would like to thank the following partners who have collaborated to make this event possible: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works, Run Saipan. Northern Marianas Athletics, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, NMTech, San Vicente Elementary School, MHS JROTC, KHS JRTOC, NMC Health Squad, Saipan International School, Rep. Richard Lizama (D-Saipan) and his staff, and Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) and her staff. ***(PR)***

Judge hits slam for MLB-leading 30th HR, Yanks rout Pirates

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Panit, Holloway are 2022 Gold's Gym Challenge winners

PAGE 23

Zhimin hailed Best Junior Female athlete

NMPMG2022/KEN CAMACHO
The CNMI's Zhimin Jin waves to the camera while being accompanied by her caddy and coach, Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, during the golf competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Coral Ocean Resort golf course.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The gold medalist of the women's golf competition in the recent Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 was adjudged the Best Junior Female athlete of the Games.

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

The CNMI's Zhimin Jin turned back challenges from Cook Islands' Rotana Howard and Samoa's Faith Vui to top the women's leaderboard with a four-round total of 312, a mere stroke ahead of runner-up Howard's 313 and two strokes better than Vui's 314. That proved to be enough to get her the prestigious Mini Games award.

The 15-year-old Marianas High School student said the Best Junior Female athlete award of the Mini Games is another surprise on top of her winning the gold medal in the 11th staging of the Games.

"I'm again surprised I won Best Junior Female athlete for the Mini Games…My parents were also surprised. We didn't even know there was a category for that in the Games," she said.

Jin also thanked Bob Coldeen, the CNMI delegation's chef de mission, her family, the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations, and

See ZHIMIN on Page 22

'Still a lot of work to be done'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee takes a selfie while posing with the CNMI national men's and women's teams during the awards ceremony of last month's 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup in Guam.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation heralded its return to regional hoops by finishing with a silver medal in the women's and a bronze medal in the men's competition of last month's 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup in Guam.

NMI BASKETBALL FEDERATION

But NMIBF president James Lee isn't content with the second place and third place finish in CNMI basketball's first action in a regional tournament since the COVID-19 pandemic essentially halted inter-island sports competition the past couple of years.

"Overall, I am proud of our athletes and also our coaches for their achievements and performance and more so of their representation for the CNMI. There is definitely still a lot of work to be done and always room to improve. However, our coaches and athletes gave us their very best given the short amount of time that we had with the restructuring

See STILL on Page 22

Netters need help for Pacific Nations Cup

By MARK RABAGO
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MARIANA NORTHERN ISLANDS TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Fresh from their successful stint in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 where they won three gold medals and a bronze, the CNMI National Tennis Team needs help to compete in this year's Pacific Nations Cup in Lautoka, Fiji.

Isabel Herras, Bobby Cruz, Colin Ramsay, and Hye Jin Elliott need an extra $6,500 to finance their trip to Fiji and the former has created a Go Fund Me page to make it happen.

In her message to would-be donors, Herras said while the Northern Marianas Islands Tennis Association is determined to continue supporting its athletes, the non-profit tennis organization has insufficient funding to send the four to compete in the Pacific Nations Cup following the investment in its junior programs and preparation for the Pacific Mini Games amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We really appreciate any amount donated. These donations will open up opportunities for all players in NMI tennis. We all have different small goals for the upcoming tournament in the Pacific Nations Cup. But the main goal we all share is to play freely, embrace the competition, and show everyone the hard work we put in."

She added that the Pacific Nations Cup is a prestigious event where only the top 64 players from 15 member-nations of Pacific Oceania get to compete in the International Tennis Federation-sponsored competition.

"Therefore, NMITA is urgently reaching out for the support of the NMI community. The CNMI National Tennis Team needs an additional $6,500 to cover travel costs to Fiji. We recognize that these are challenging times to give so that any financial assistance would be exponentially appreciated," said Herras.

In return, the bronze medalist in the mixed doubles competition of the Mini Games said the national team will provide a group tennis clinic

See NETTERS on Page 22

NMPMG2022/NORMAN DEL ROSARIO
The CNMI's Isabel Herras in action during the tennis competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.